

U.S. vetoes U.N. resolution

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States vetoed a Security Council resolution Wednesday strongly deploring an Israeli land, air and sea attack last Friday against Lebanese territory. The vote on the resolution was 14 in favour and one against, with no abstentions. Lebanon requested the council meeting after Israel attacked a base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, south of Beirut. Lebanese U.N. Representative Rachid Fakhoury told the council the "material and human losses resulting from the Israeli act of aggression are immense," with many houses demolished, crops burned, roads destroyed and large numbers of dead and wounded. Fakhoury, who said the fighting lasted 12 hours, added that the "operation failed, as it was destined to, in view of the insistence of the Lebanese national resistance to face it." Lebanon had never been taken in by Israeli statements that Israel had no ambitions against Lebanon's territory or its waters, he said. "The land, air and naval shelling and bombing were aimed at Lebanese villages and territory," he said. He called on the council to condemn Israel and "its acts of aggression" to compel it to implement council resolutions.

Jordan Times

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Crown Prince begins Swiss visit



His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein is sworn in as Regent Wednesday before His Majesty King Hussein Crown Prince Hassan left for Switzerland (Petra photo).

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday left for Switzerland on a visit expected to last several days, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. Before the Crown Prince's departure His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein was sworn in as Regent in the absence of His Majesty King Hussein on a visit abroad.

Jordan sends 2nd planeload of aid to Armenia

AMMAN (J.T.) — A second planeload of medicine and other relief supplies left Amman for the Soviet Union Wednesday to help victims of the earthquake in Armenia.

The first plane left for the Soviet Union Dec. 11. The relief aid was extended upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein.



The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the second plane (see photo) carried first aid supplies, medicine and medical equipment.

It said that the supplies were being sent in expression of the Jordanian people's sympathy and solidarity with the Soviet Union.

AROUND THE WORLD...

'Bush to send Kissinger to Mideast'

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. President-elect George Bush plans to send former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to the Middle East next month to try to move the peace process forward, an Israeli newspaper reported Wednesday. The Yediot Ahronot daily quoted Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as telling other ministers of his Labour Party that he expected Kissinger in the region shortly after Bush's inauguration Jan. 20.

Peres to serve as finance minister

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres agreed Wednesday to serve as finance minister in a new "national unity" coalition headed by his political rival, right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "Mr. Peres is ready to take upon himself the role of finance minister on the condition that all the authorities needed to reconstruct the economy will be given to him," his office said in a statement.

10 S. Africans jailed for aiding ANC

CAPE TOWN (R) — Ten young mixed-race South Africans were jailed for up to 15 years Wednesday for a string of bombings and hand grenade attacks and furthering the aims of the African National Congress (ANC). Less than a week ago 11 anti-apartheid activists were jailed for up to 12 years on treason and terrorism charges. Five other anti-government activists still face treason charges stemming from a wave of black unrest between 1984 and 1986.

Gorbachev to visit Peking in early 1989

PEKING (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will probably visit Peking in the first half of next year for the first Sino-Soviet summit in 30 years, a Soviet diplomat said Wednesday. He said the visit would probably be between April and June and that there were no remaining obstacles.

Iran allows political parties

NICOSIA (R) — Iran announced Wednesday it would permit approved political parties to operate but warned would-be politicians to learn from the bitter experience of the past. "We can proceed with this important matter... now there is relative tranquility and... we are not facing a face-to-face war with Iraq," Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi announced on Tehran radio. Mohtashemi said the constitution and laws passed in September 1981 would be the basis for the parties to operate.

Khmer Rouge leader, Sihanouk begin talks

FERE-EN-TARDENOIS, France (R) — Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and former Kampuchean ruler Prince Norodom Sihanouk began talks over lunch at a restaurant on Wednesday about their country's nine-year-old guerrilla war. The meeting signalled a change of heart by Khieu Samphan. It is the first time the two men have met since Sihanouk began a peace initiative a year ago.

Bush picks Yentter as agriculture chief

WASHINGTON (R) — President-elect George Bush Wednesday named current U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yentter to be his secretary of agriculture.

Afghan exchange accord reported

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A news agency run by Afghan rebels said Wednesday that the Soviet Union had agreed to exchange three Soviet prisoners for 25 Mujahideen guerrillas held by Soviet forces. Gholam Ghaus Amir of the rebel-run Afghan News Agency said the three Soviet soldiers were captured about a month ago. He said they are held in Afghanistan's northern Badkhan province by Hezb-e-Islami, of which Amir is a member. Amir did not say when the exchange would take place.

Police storm Geneva Iranian consulate

GENEVA (R) — Police stormed the Iranian consulate in Geneva Wednesday, ending a protest occupation by opponents of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini over alleged mass executions and torture in Iran. Police arrested five masked members of the leftist people's Fedayeen guerrillas who held consulate staff hostage for four and a half hours. The protest was one of several in Europe called by the Fedayeen following reports that Tehran has executed more than 12,000 political prisoners since August under secret guidelines issued by Khomeini.

Talks cover Gulf peace; economic accord signed

King, Rocard stress need for Mideast conference

PARIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday held talks with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard on the Middle East conflict, international relations and developments in peace talks between Iran and Iraq after eight years of war.



H.M. King Hussein

The King, who held talks with French President Francois Mitterrand Tuesday, also met with French Foreign Minister Roland

Dumas and discussed with him Middle East developments and Iran-Iraq peace talks, Petra said. Dumas expressed the French government's appreciation of efforts exerted by Jordan towards reviving the Middle East peace process.

The King also met with former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and reviewed Jordanian-French relations. Giscard d'Estaing now serves as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the French parliament. Later Tuesday, the King held a meeting with heads of Arab diplomatic missions in France and reviewed with them current issues

facing the Arab World, particularly those related to the Palestinian problem and international developments.

The King also briefed the envoys on efforts being exerted towards Arab solidarity and convening an Arab summit conference.

The King urged the diplomats to do their best to explain the Arab causes and counter distortion of facts. The meetings were attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oaseem and the Jordanian ambassador to Paris.

(Continued on page 2)

Israel remains adamant

Arafat speech draws acclaim

GENEVA (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat won wide praise Wednesday for offering an olive branch to Israel but the Zionist state maintained its adamant refusal to negotiate with the PLO.

"Such an organisation cannot be a negotiating partner to Israel," Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Johanan Bein, told the General Assembly in Geneva. But other nations called on Israel and its main backer, the United States, to reciprocate the moderation shown by Arafat in his speech to the assembly Tuesday.

The United States said Arafat had not met U.S. terms for opening dialogue with the PLO — clearly recognising Israel, renouncing terrorism and accepting U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338. Arab Jerusalem's heavily-censored Palestinian newspapers all applauded Arafat's speech as a true call for peace.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinian leaders criticised Israel and the United States for rejecting Arafat's proposals. "This American slap in the face is going to produce a widespread boycott of the Americans," said professor Manuel Hassassian, dean of students at Bethlehem University.

"Arafat launched a historic initiative based on the peace message of the intifada. It seems they (the U.S. and Israel) don't want to see it or understand it," said Mahdi Abdul Hadi, head of a Palestinian foreign policy think-tank. Both said Arafat had clearly stated the Palestinians' desire for peace with Israel. Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said the PLO's desire for peace could not be misunderstood, "even by the most suspicious."

But in Israel, where political leaders are wrangling over formation of a new coalition government, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called Arafat's speech a disappointment and a diplomatic failure.

"Instead of grappling with the problems, he chose to bypass them," Peres said in an address to parliament. His Labour Party has taken a more conciliatory line on talks with the PLO than the Likud, led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who called the speech "a monumental act of deception."

Delegate after delegate told the assembly in Geneva that they welcomed PLO moves towards recognising Israel in a two-state solution and saw no reason for U.S. reservations.

Recent PLO statements "can in our view not be misunderstood, even by the most suspicious," said Andersson, the driving force behind last week's meeting between Arafat and a group (Continued on page 2)



Yasser Arafat

Mubarak rebukes Shultz

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak rebuked U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz over his policy towards the Palestinians in a rare, 15-minute telephone call on Wednesday, the national Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

It said Mubarak placed the call and discussed with Shultz the important points in Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's speech to the United Nations in Geneva Tuesday.

"Mubarak told the U.S. secretary that the United States must take a more positive and understanding attitude towards the constructive resolutions taken by the PLO in recent weeks," MENA reported.

Since decisions taken by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers four weeks ago, the PLO has embarked on a new Middle East policy calling for a two-state solution to the conflict with Israel.

But Washington has said the PLO has not gone far enough. In comments to reporters earlier, Mubarak praised Arafat's speech and said some Israeli leaders did not want peace.

"I hope that there is a clear understanding of Arafat's speech by both the United States and Israel, although (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhak Shamir... still doesn't want a solution," Mubarak told reporters.

"There are forces in Israel that want peace and we must encourage these forces. There is also a minority that obstructs peace," Mubarak said Israel and the United States must encourage the moderation shown by Arafat in his Geneva speech.

"I don't know what more could be expected of Arafat," said Mubarak, speaking during a visit to the Soviet embassy where he offered condolences for the Armenian earthquake victims.

Arafat has done more than enough to prove his people's desire for peace and Israel and the United States must now respond, Arab leaders and commentators said Wednesday.

Fourteen years after offering the U.N. General Assembly a choice between the gun and the olive branch, Arafat Tuesday told the assembly in Geneva: "We (Continued on page 2)

Fahd, Assad end two days of talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd ended two days of talks in Riyadh Wednesday that diplomats said aimed at narrowing differences blocking a full Arab summit meeting.

In a statement issued after Assad's departure, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said discussions dealt with the "entire range of issues on the Arab arena and topics of the hour."

The Syrian leader was seen off at the airport by King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah after his first visit to Saudi Arabia for several years.

There were no precise details from either side on the talks. Diplomatic sources, who spoke on condition they were not named, told the AP Saudi leaders were pressing for an early summit between Assad and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Assad also met Crown Prince Abdullah, who has sought to mediate between Syria and Iraq, and the crisis in Lebanon.

Israelis expel 3 Palestinians, raze Burin home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities Wednesday expelled three Palestinians from the occupied West Bank to Lebanon and dynamited the home of a Palestinian who shot dead an Israeli settler and a soldier Tuesday.

Wednesday's expulsions brought to 36 the total number of Palestinians expelled by the Israeli authorities to Lebanon in a year.

Lebanese police said in Rashaya the three were driven in three military cars belonging to the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia to the Zoumarraya crossing on the northeastern edge of Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The three were blindfolded and handcuffed. They were accompanied by several Israeli officers, police said.

"At Zoumarraya an Israeli doctor offered to examine them but they refused," said a police spokesman.

They were driven to a joint Syrian-Lebanese army checkpoint in the town of Marj Al Zhour, four kilometers north of Zoumarraya.

The three were identified as: Ahmad Hasan Mebanna, 39; Issa Eid Saleh Hamad, 60; and Abdul Fattah Mahmoud Ziyara, 55.

Mebanna and Hamad told reporters in Marj Al Zhour they were taken from Gaza's central prison straight to the Lebanese-Israeli border, where an Israeli officer offered them \$50 each. They said they refused to take the money.

The three were later transferred to the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the village of Ksara in the Bekka Valley. "We will only take refuge at the ICRC headquarters and we appeal to this humanitarian organization to work and return us to our land or to any other Arab State," Mebanna said.

In the West Bank, the army Wednesday dynamited the home of a Palestinian shepherd who killed two Israelis and Jewish settlement leaders called on Israelis to be quicker to use firearms in clashes with Arabs. According to sources, Hamdan Najjar, from the village of Burin, attacked an Israeli settler after an argument. He grabbed the settler's rifle, shot him, and then used the gun to ambush an army vehicle.

He shot dead one soldier and wounded two before troops captured and killed him. The army clamped a curfew on Burin and destroyed Najjar's house.

Uprising heralds 'blue' Christmas

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Christmas tourism has dropped sharply from last year because of the Palestinian uprising, and some hotel managers in Nazareth and Jerusalem say they have no booking at all for the holidays.

The Israeli occupation authorities predict that about 70,000 visitors will arrive in December, a decline of 14 per cent from last year.

Before the uprising began a year ago, the Israelis were predicting that 1988 would be a record tourism year.

Hotel managers described a blue Christmas. "This is the worst Christmas I've ever had," said Mustafa Hamed, manager of the 65-bed Galil Hotel in Nazareth, where the Bible says Jesus spent most of his life.

Empty hotels

"This year, the hotel is completely empty," said Hamed, adding that six European groups that made reservations several months ago for Christmas have cancelled their bookings.

He said they apparently were scared off by the uprising, which has claimed more than 330 Palestinian and 13 Israeli lives since it began Dec. 8, 1987.

In Arah Jerusalem's 40 hotels, at least two-thirds of the 1,200 rooms will remain empty during Christmas week, said Fouad Abul Haj, vice president of the Arab Hotel Association.

"The situation is very bad," said Haj, who also manages the 110-room National Palace Hotel where 80 rooms are vacant. "Pilgrims used to be our main business. Now, they're not coming anymore."

Haj said seven smaller Arab Jerusalem hotels have closed down completely for lack of business.

Festivities called off

In Bethlehem, Mayor Elias Freij has announced that many of the city's traditional Christmas festivities have been cancelled in solidarity with the uprising.

"The Christmas party we hold every year on the 24th has been cancelled," said Freij, adding there also will be no boy scout parade, no city-sponsored decorations, no reception for diplomats. "You decorate when you are happy," he said. "The situation is so discouraging, so tense... that there is no spirit of joy."



A Palestinian girl hurls a stone at Israeli police in occupied Jerusalem. The one-year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories had badly hit tourism revenues of the occupation authorities and dampened this year's Christmas festivities.

9 killed in Luxor air crash

CAIRO (AP) — A Nigerian-owned Boeing 707 cargo plane carrying flowers to Europe crashed into a village in southern Egypt early Wednesday, killing all eight crew members and a villager, a senior police officer said.

Police Major-General Salah Niaz, security chief for the southern province of Qena where the crash occurred, told the AP by telephone that five villagers were injured and taken to hospital.

It was the second Nigerian cargo plane to crash in Egypt this year. A Nigerian DC-8 chartered by an Egyptian transport firm crashed as it took off from Cairo international airport March 31, killing its American pilot and his crew of three Nigerians.

Niaz said the Boeing 707 plummeted onto the edge of Karm Omran village, which has a population of several thousand, minutes after midnight. It destroyed three houses and some electric utility poles.

The plane was en route from Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, to Brussels.

The pilot tried to land at Cairo for refueling. The plane was unable to land because of bad weather and poor visibility, and air traffic controllers diverted it to Luxor international airport, Niaz said.

Iraq: Iran violated truce

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has denied its forces had breached the Gulf war ceasefire and accused Iran of starting shooting.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) Tuesday quoted a military source as saying: "The Iranian side violated the ceasefire Sunday by firing four rocket-propelled grenades at Iraq's engineering works and the Iraqi armed forces retaliated."

The Iranian news agency IRNA earlier quoted a military official as saying that two border guards were killed and four

wounded when Iraqi troops opened fire with machineguns Sunday and shelled the Kushk region, southwest of the western Iranian town of Ahvaz.

INA quoted the source as saying Iran had overrun the area some months ago and Iraq had made several complaints to the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIMOG) which polices the Aug. 20 ceasefire.

He said the exchange of fire stopped, but the Iranian side resumed artillery and mortar shelling in the evening forcing Iraqi troops to retaliate and it stopped

only after UNIMOG intervened. Iran and Iraq have repeatedly accused each other of breaking the ceasefire and have made to progress towards permanent peace in U.N.-sponsored negotiations which adjourned Nov. 11.

In Baghdad, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeepers said Sunday's incident was still under investigation. The first observers sent to the scene could not confirm the Iranian deaths, he said, and another team had been dispatched from the Iranian side. U.N. officers have said previously no serious violations of the ceasefire have occurred.

Special session cost U.N. \$645,550

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The special U.N. General Assembly session in Geneva that heard Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat address the Palestine issue will cost the United Nations about \$645,500, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

The General Assembly voted earlier this month to reconvene in Geneva to hear Arafat after the State Department refused him a visa to visit U.N. headquarters in New York.

All U.N. member states will be assessed for their share of the costs, including the United States and Israel, said a U.N. spokesman, Fred Eckhardt.

Most costs were for conference services and travel, said Bock Cheng Yeo, a spokesman for the General Assembly's standing budget committee, formally called the Administrative Committee on Administrative and

Budgetary Questions. The estimated additional costs incurred by the United Nations are:

— \$390,200 for conference services, such as overtime for translators, broadcast specialists, and other expenses;

— \$159,800 for air tickets for the president of General Assembly, a U.N. secretary officer and a security officer, and one delegate from each of the 40 least developed nations among the 159 member states;

— \$67,700 for air tickets for Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, seven of his senior staff and 16 lower-ranking staffers;

— \$9,400 for air tickets for the U.N. legal counsel and three of his staff;

— \$8,200 for air tickets for public information officers and temporary staff;

— \$5,600 for air tickets for the

chairman and a staffer on the U.N.'s Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

— \$4,600 for air tickets for the General Assembly spokesman and a radio producer.

Yeo said an austerity measure taken last year by the General Assembly made a deep cut in potential travel costs. Until last year, five delegates from every U.N. member state were entitled to travel costs for sessions not held in New York; the General Assembly cut the allowance to one delegate only from the 40 least developed countries.

The additional costs will be divided between this year and next year's regular U.N. budgets and assessed to U.N. members at their usual rates.

The United States, which refused Arafat a visa, will be expected to pay 25 per cent of the costs, totalling \$161,375.

King, Rocard stress need for conference

(Continued from page 1)

France. Also Tuesday, Jordan and France signed an economic cooperation agreement covering all fields. Rifa'i and Rocard signed the document.

Queen visits institute Her Majesty Queen Noor, who is now accompanying the King, on the visit to France, Wednesday.

Arafat draws wide acclaim

(Continued from page 1)

of U.S. Jews.

Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, speaking on behalf of the 12-nation European Economic Community (EEC), said Arafat's speech was an "important and expected confirmation" of the PNC declarations.

He said the EEC welcomed the PLO's acceptance at Algiers of the U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for an international conference, "which implies acceptance of Israel's right of existence and its security."

Papoulias said "this choice of moderation... demands an equally moderate and constructive response from Israel."

Papoulias said there could be no real peace for any of the peoples of the region "without a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement."

Papoulias said that without recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights there could not be peace in the region.

We said the EEC supported an international peace conference under U.N. auspices which he described as the appropriate framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned.

A PLO spokesman accused Washington of quibbling. "The only thing they are fond of is having us strippease, and we are not ready to do a striptease to entertain them," Ribhi Awad, PLO political department spokesman, told reporters.

day visited Esmad fashion designing institute and inspected work on children and ladies dresses, which involves the use of computers in designing and sewing processes.

Nearly 844 male and female students are being trained at the institute of whom 35 per cent are from outside France, including three students from Jordan. The Queen is chairperson of

the board of directors of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), which currently carries out several projects in Jordan to encourage women to work in small projects in their own region and help in the national development process.

The Queen was accompanied on the visit by the wives of the French minister of culture and the Jordanian ambassador to France.

Mubarak rebukes Shultz

(Continued from page 1)

reach for the olive branch..." He said he wanted a comprehensive settlement guaranteeing all parties to the conflict — including Palestine, Israel and their neighbours — the right to live in peace and security. He also condemned terrorism "in all its forms."

The U.S. State Department and President-elect George Bush said Arafat had still not clearly met their conditions for starting a dialogue. Israel termed Arafat's speech a "monumental act of deception."

Britain said it was encouraged by Arafat's speech saying it was a further move forward for the PLO.

"We are encouraged by what Mr. Arafat said in his speech yesterday," a Foreign Office spokesman said. "It underlines the extent to which the PLO have changed their position... but we still hope for greater clarity," he added without elaborating.

British newspapers Wednesday urged the United States and Israel to respond to Arafat's call for peace even if it was a step too short.

"It is hard to see how the U.S. can ask Mr. Arafat to go further, either in accepting Israel's rights or in renouncing violence, without asking Israel to reciprocate," the Financial Times said.

U.N.: Shot Turkish Cypriot soldier posed no threat

NICOSIA (AP) — A United Nations spokesman said Tuesday that the Turkish Cypriot soldier shot and killed this week did not pose any threat to the Greek Cypriot troops on the other side of the buffer zone that splits this war-divided island.

"Investigations have not established that the soldier presented any threat to the Greek Cypriot National Guards in the area," said Charles Gaulkin, spokesman for the peacekeepers.

Hassan Kara, 20, was shot by a Greek Cypriot soldier Sunday in the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone that splits the Cypriot capital

into Greek and Turkish sectors. He died Monday from his wounds.

Gaulkin said the acting U.N. force commander, Brigadier-General Walter Couglin met with Greek Cypriot Defence Minister Andreas Alogoskoufis Tuesday and expressed the "serious concern" of the peace force over the shooting incident.

Alogoskoufis said Sunday the incident was sad, but the Greek Cypriot soldier did what should be done in any case of a violation of the buffer zone.

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT SEVENTH EDUCATION PROJECT

The contractors who had been qualified previously for the Seventh Education Project and willing to participate in the following bid are requested to get bid documents from the Projects and Buildings Directorate, Ministry of Education from Dec. 10, 1988, with the following conditions.

A. The Seventh Education Project is partially financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

B. Description of tender Price JD Tender Bond
125 16000

1. Tender No. 42/D/1988 construction of school buildings in Manara and Jofa. Area (6800) Sq.m.

C. Last date of purchasing copies of tender documents is Dec. 21, 1988.

D. Award for any contractor shall be based on the allowable ceiling of commitment and number of projects as indicated in the government works bylaws and classification regulations.

E. Last date for submitting financial offers is Dec. 28, 1988 at 13.30 at the Ministry of Public Works.

Director of Central Tendering Committee

DO NOT JUST GRILL A CHICKEN !!! COOK IT WITH LOVE !!!

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- Selected purchase
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As time goes by we become more aware of the dangers of heavy food, containing: cholesterol, animal fat, low fiber and high calorie intake. Now, with your health in mind, you will find in the Jericho Room Restaurant a balanced choice of traditional Arabic dishes, retaining the flavour and originality, while presenting it in a new form. Dining becomes exciting with a menu which provides a balanced choice of European and Arabic dishes.

From the moment you enter until you finish your coffee, and choose from the humidor of the Maitre D and his waiters will provide you with their best services.

Mozart, Chopin, Dixi, and Jazz create the atmosphere for a successful evening played by Musa Faza'a on the piano.

Come and join us once!

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran

16:00 Programme review

16:30 Children programmes

17:15 Local programme

18:00 Programme on Jordan

18:45 News summary

19:00 World Reports

19:30 Local programme

19:45 "Alpha"

19:15 Health programme

19:40 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Programme on the press

20:45 Local series

21:00 Programme review

21:55 Programme on Islamic art

22:40 Arabic play

23:00 News summary in Arabic

23:10 Play (com.1)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Des chiffres et de lettres

18:00 Adventure voyages

18:30 Rue Carnot

19:00 News in French

19:15 French varieties

19:30 News in Hebrew

PRAYER TIMES

05:01 Fajr

06:23 (Sunrise) Dhuhr

11:31 Dhuhr

14:15 Asr

16:38 Maghreb

18:01 Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 627440.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain and another drop on temperature will occur. Winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with a chance for scattered showers. Winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 898140

Dr. Tayseer Al Sadi 777636

Dr. Fayez Jallouja 624207

Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Naroukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeitan pharmacy 637660

JERUSALEM:

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821284

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 661111

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Latif Sharbini (-)

Khalaf pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 81813/332

Khaldun Maternity, J. Amn 642341/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine Shmeitan 664171/4

Shmeitan Hospital 669131

University Hospital 645845

Al-Muassir Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amman Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Gov. Hospital (07)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071

The Sina Hospital (09)984732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)372723

Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)341111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.

Apple 500 / 400

Banana 350 / 300

Banana (Mukhammar) 300 / 250

Beans 440 / 360

Cabbage 130 / 100

Carrots 250 / 200

Cauliflower 170 / 100

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 Koran

18:30 Children programme

19:00 Religious programme

19:30 Friday's prayer

19:45 Religious programme

20:00 Sports programme

20:30 Sports programme

20:45 Football match

21:00 Football match

PRAYER TIMES

05:01 Fajr

06:23 (Sunrise) Dhuhr

11:31 Dhuhr

14:15 Asr

16:38 Maghreb

18:01 Isha

Cucumbers 300 / 220

Eggplant (large) 350 / 300

Eggplant (small) 160 / 120

Garlic 270 / 200

Grapefruit 160 / 120

Lemon 200 / 160

Marrow (large) 100 / 80

Marrow (small) 170 / 120

Orange (French) 320 / 280

Orange (Shamoulli) 300 / 250

Orange (local) 240 / 200

Onion (dry) 320 / 160

Pepper (hot) 320 / 240

Pepper (sweet) 320 / 240

Potato 270 / 240

Spinach 140 / 100

Tomatoes 250 / 180

280 / 240

15:50 The world around us

16:10 The world around us

16:30 News summary in Arabic

18:00 Local programme

19:25 Local programme

19:45 News in Arabic

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Local programme

21:00 News summary in Arabic

21:20 Variety programme (com.1)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Feature film: "Where's the Seventh Company"

19:00 News in French

19:15 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Charles in Charge

21:10 Berganza

22:40 News in English

23:10 Palestine

23:10 The 7th Company



H.M. King Hussein

Al Hussein pays tribute to RJ

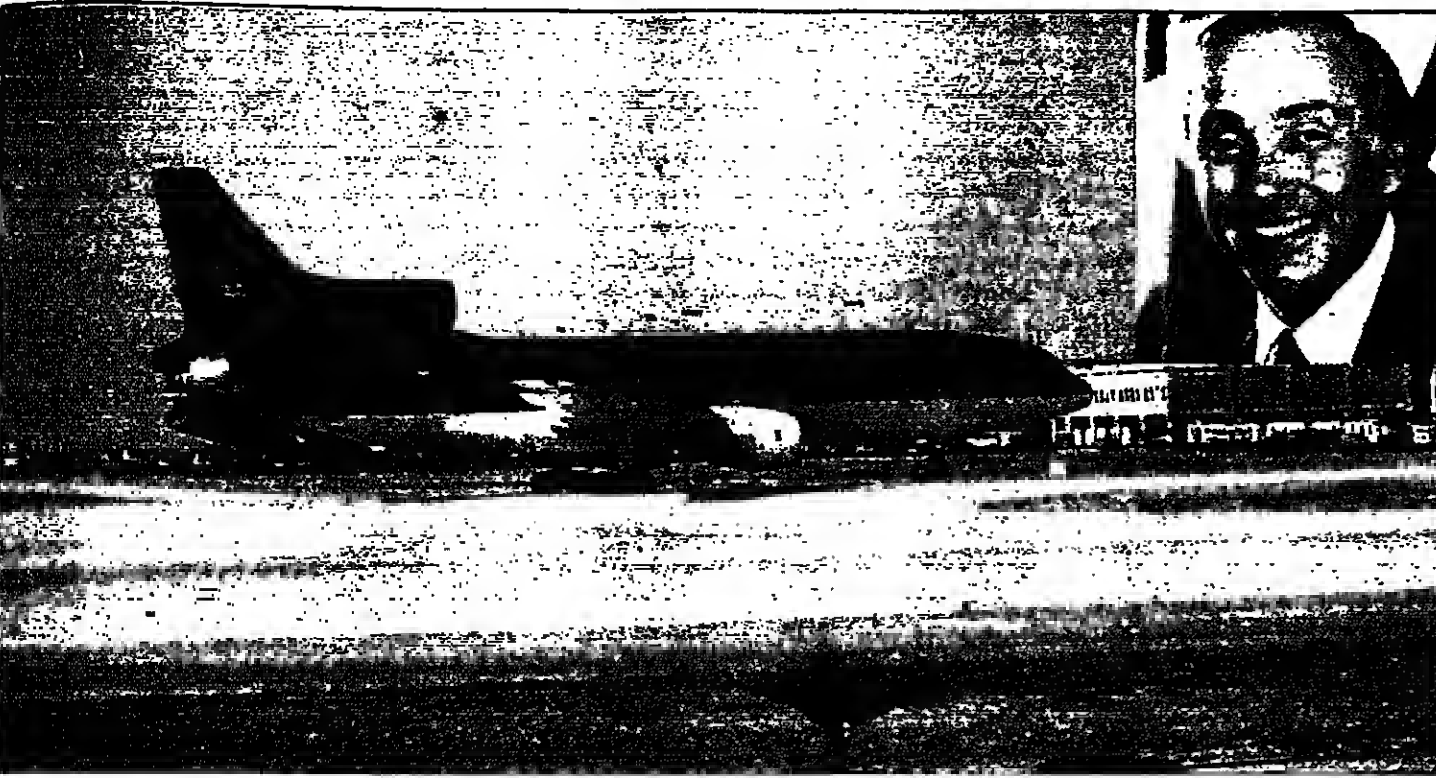
AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday paid tribute to Royal Jordanian (RJ) the national airline company and voiced appreciation for its continued endeavours to serve Jordan and the whole Arab Nation.

In a message addressed to RJ employees marking the airline's silver jubilee, the King said that it was due to the

workers' relentless efforts over the years that RJ has grown from a tiny airline in 1963 into one of the major national airlines in the world.

"Nothing could have been achieved without the efforts of those who worked diligently to promote the airline's services and expand its operations worldwide," the King continued. Today, he said, RJ has be-

come Jordan's ambassador to the world, raising the Jordanian flag in many countries, conveying to other nations the Kingdom's culture and projecting its people's aspirations for the future. Thus contributing towards the development of international understanding and serving as a strong arm for promoting trade among nations.



A Royal Jordanian TriStar at Queen Alia International Airport. (Insert) RJ Chairman Ali Ghandour

Royal Jordanian to celebrate silver jubilee

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the nation's airline company is celebrating its 25th anniversary this month with probably a surprise announcement by the airline's chairman and chief executive officer Ali Ghandour on plans for the coming year.

Ghandour is expected to address a press conference at his office on Dec. 20 to outline the airline's achievements in the past year and its continued drive to bolster its stand and provide service to the country.

"Our 90 offices around the world serve for air travel to Jordan and other nations, and act as a catalyst to promote tourism and to attract tourist groups to the Kingdom's various attractions and places of interest," Ghandour said in a statement published in the local press in October.

At the Dec. 20 press conference Ghandour is expected to present a new plan for the airline's activities and services linked to the five continents.

Royal Jordanian officials believe Ghandour will announce two important decisions to help the Kingdom embark on a new international and touristic progress by the year 1990.

The airline, which was established in 1963, has been instrumental

in promoting the Kingdom's tourist attractions, and through its organised group tours provided a great service to the tourist industry.

According to Ghandour's statement in October, RJ has signed an agreement in Paris for the construction of a tourist village in Aqaba to accommodate 600 guests and two hotels, one in Wadi Rum and the other in the ancient Nabatean city of Petra. RJ expects to transport no less than 25,000 tourists to the country by the year 1990 on an annual basis. Ghandour was quoted as saying in that statement.

A press release issued on the eve of the anniversary, which falls on Dec. 15, said: "It was 25 years ago that His Majesty King Hussein established the national carrier which was to become one of the most important entities in the social, economic and political spheres in the Kingdom."

From 1963, beginning with one Douglas DC-7 and two Handly Page Darts, Royal Jordanian has developed into an airline with a fleet of 17, flying to 45 destinations on four continents.

Ghandour has overseen and directed this growth, and today supervises an international staff numbering over 5,000.

RJ plans to turn itself into a public shareholding company, and according to Ghandour, this transformation will take place in two stages to offer a chance for the private sector to have a share in owning and operating the company alongside the public sector.

First, he said RJ will be turned over to the government which will then offer part of its shares, probably 10 per cent, as an initial stage to the public. "I believe that the government will eventually offer 35 per cent of the RJ shares for sale in Jordan and abroad," Ghandour noted recently.

He said that RJ hopes to expand its present network to all parts of the world with the purpose of bolstering the national economy and promoting tourism.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

SHARIF ZAID VISITS WELFARE SOCIETY: Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Wednesday visited the Soldiers' Family Welfare Society in Zarqa and reviewed the services presented to the members of the Armed Forces and martyrs' families. (Petra)

CENTRE FOR HANDICAPPED: Her Highness Princess Majida Ra'd opened a centre for the rehabilitation of handicapped children at Bagaa refugee camp which is to be operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA). The Princess toured the various parts of the centre and inspected services offered to the physically and mentally handicapped, and the physiotherapy unit. The opening ceremony was attended by UNRWA Director in Jordan El Saaf and representatives of the camp residents. (Petra)

DEIR ABI SA'ID ELECTIONS: Some 3,638 electorates will cast their votes Thursday in the Deir Abi Sa'id municipal elections. There are twenty-one candidates competing for seven seats. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in which more than 69 paintings are on display.
- An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- The Moldavian public art exhibition, which includes handicrafts, engravings, and costumes representing the Moldavian folklore, at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of pottery and ceramics by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at Alia Gallery Hall.
- An exhibition of His Majesty King Hussein's photos marking his 53rd birthday besides exhibiting books showing development in the Kingdom under King Hussein, at Deir Abu Sa'id.
- An exhibition of educational aids at Al Samt School, Deir Abu Sa'id.

THEATRE

- An Arabic play entitled "Ya 'Anter" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

- A seminar on Jordanian script writers at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

FILMS

- A feature film entitled "An American in Paris" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- An Italian film entitled "Un Uomo, Una Donna e Un Bambino" at Haya Arts Centre — 7:00 p.m.

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — This week at the Alia Art Gallery is an exhibition of the work of the leading Iraqi ceramist, Nuha Al Radi. An exceptionally creative artist with a strong sense of fun, Radi uses her media not to make pots but in its more ancient role as a means of communication. Molding the clay and using glazes like paints, Radi composes scenes and pictures inspired directly from her own immediate environment.

Full of the daily minutiae of life, these clay pictures have a naive and thus very direct appeal, a fact particularly true of the doors and windows which frame small mirrors. Overhung with vines, cats and doves perched on the sills, black and white check-boards at their base on which stand potted plants, these arched windows and doors speak of tradition, of the continuity of life, of the pleasure taken in simple things, their soft and unusual mixes of colours — deep magenta reds with biscuit browns, turquoise mixed with purples — enhancing the feeling that this, for the artist at least, is home. These pieces, like much of Radi's work on show at this exhibition are imprinted extensively with palm trees. Taking her cue from ancient works of art, Radi has made her own cylinder seals which she rolls over her pieces to produce repeated patterns giving her work its unique unity and subtle texturing.

Caricatures

While using doors and windows as a means of capturing the essence of the traditional architecture of the area is not a new idea, executing caricatures in clay certainly is and the gentle fun of these portraits is refreshing. Equally delightful is the series of clay pictures based on Eve. Radi lightly maintains that Eve must have been around before Adam, simply because she represents Mother Nature and the beginning of everything. Using a rather less rotund and fecund version of the Venus of Willendorf — a small stone statue dating back to 25,000-20,000 B.C. — to repre-

sent Eve, Radi poses her bossy, impatient figure against a background of palm trees like the ones that line the banks of the Euphrates. Different shades of glaze catch all the varying moods and lights of the day, an idea Radi has carried across into more direct portrayals of the Iraqi desert.

B.C. graffiti

Very involved with the rich archaeology of her country, Radi has recreated some of the ancient stones scrawled with prehistoric graffiti that litter some of the sites. Covered in her own version of cuneiform script, the oldest known written language, these boulders have the look and feel of their original counterparts especially as over them crawl small lizards and black and yellow scorpions. Typifying Radi's ever present sense of delight and fun in her surroundings, one wonders if the rocks are not simply vehicles for these small creatures.

The exhibition is completed



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday inaugurates the new premises of a police department in charge of combating drugs and forgery (Petra photo)

Regent inaugurates new police premises

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday inaugurated the new premises of a police department in charge of combating drug trafficking and forgery.

The department director delivered a speech welcoming the Regent and paid tribute to his support for the Public Security Department (PSD) and its efforts to combat drugs and to his instrumental assistance to set up the department in 1973 as an arm of the PSD.

The director also reviewed the developments of the department's services and cooperation

with Interpol and other international organisations and various nations in combating drug trafficking.

Later, Prince Hassan inspected the different sections of the new premises and heard briefings on their operations.

Prince Hassan later called at the PSD headquarters and met with its Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, voicing his appreciation to the remarkable services the PSD offers to the public in the fight against crime and in contributing to the Kingdom's stability and security.

Touqan, Tarawneh review CDD training courses

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Touqan visited the Civil Defence Department (CDD) Wednesday and met with its director Khaled Tarawneh to discuss training courses for the staff of social and voluntary organisations.

Training, he said, would help these organisations to provide first aid and rescue operations to the public in case of natural disasters and major incidents.

The minister toured the CDD's sections and inspected their operations.

The minister later visited two charitable societies in Ruseifa and examined their activities, and social and educational pro-

grammes. He said the Ministry of Social Development will continue to provide all possible assistance to charitable organisations in the Kingdom.

Touqan also visited the new premises of a vocational training centre for handicapped children in Ruseifa which is being operated in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The centre, the minister was told, provides care and services to 150 handicapped children and training in carpentry, dress making, auto mechanics and other trades.

HINDAWI, W. BANK TEAM HOLD TALKS: Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi had a discussion Wednesday with a team representing the World Bank which is financing a number of ministry projects in the Kingdom. Hindawi briefed the team on the Ministry of Education's current efforts to overhaul the educational system in the Kingdom by building new schools, and upgrading curricula and providing better training to teachers at all stages. (Petra)

WHO regional seminar ends

Risk of illness from pollution must be defined

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A regional conference on development and its effect on the environment and health ended here Wednesday with a call on Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) countries to rapidly assess the origins and extent of environmental health problems associated with socio-economic development so that such assessments may be used as a basis for development strategies and programmes.

"All development is for the prosperity of the people, and therefore development proposals that cannot be shown to maintain or enhance the health status of present and future generations should be abandoned," the recommendations, reached at the end of the four-day conference, read.

Health should be included as an integral part of the "sustainable development" process, conference participants concluded.

The conference, organised by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, also concluded that health ministries in EMR countries should incorporate into their health education programmes, an understanding of environmental health issues and ways to incorporate them in national, regional and local development plans.

The 57 experts, who took part in the conference, recommended that the environmental laws of EMR countries should stipulate the protection of public health against environmental hazards.

The private sector, participants said, should be encouraged to find cost effective solutions and designs for sustainable development project.

"The private sector must take responsibility for the contaminants that it releases into the environment on the principle that the polluter pays," the recommendations read.

Furthermore, national health agencies should ensure that environmental health conditions in EMR countries are improved. "For this... (they) need to strengthen their own structures, expertise, and programmes in environ-

mental health," the recommendations stated.

EMR countries should strengthen mechanisms and procedures for inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation on environmental health as well. "Ministries of health, environment, development and planning should train more staff in techniques and methods of environmental and health assessment of projects, and specific training courses and the production of training material should be developed," the final report said.

The recommendations also suggested that a regional body of experts be set up to mount a collaborative effort in pollution control and manpower development within the region. The WHO and other international agencies should be encouraged to organise and finance such an initiative, the report stated.

Environmental health institutions should be encouraged to develop, maintain and update information systems, and make them readily and inexpensively available to all interested parties to become a genuine regional network supported and assisted by CEHA, the report concluded.

During the final session of the conference, Health Minister Zeid Hamzeh stressed the public's role in executing these policies. He said the ministry was not only concerned with building hospital and health centres but that it had cooperated closely with the WHO in activities related to the health of the citizens.

"The Health Ministry and all the official bodies will be most cooperative and supportive to what you have arrived at in your recommendations," Hamzeh promised the participants.

Jordan, Egypt to discuss air transport in January

CAIRO (Petra, J.T.) — Ministers of transport and telecommunications in Egypt and Jordan are due to meet next month to discuss air transport operations between the two countries, according to Minister of Transport Khaled Al Haj Hassan.

Speaking after a meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sidki Wednesday, Haj Hassan said that the meeting, which will be held in Cairo in the second half of January 1989, is to be attended by the Egyptian minister of tourism and aviation.

Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in general and in the field of transport and telecommunications in particular were reviewed at the meeting with the prime minister, according to Haj Hassan who returned to Amman Wednesday.

He said that the exchange of views and the discussions on the implementation of joint projects in these fields come prior to the coming meeting by the joint higher committee chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

Haj Hassan said he reviewed with Sidki the latest agreements reached in talks here on promoting the work and operations of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company shared by Egypt, Jordan and Iraq.

Ministers from the three countries concluded meetings in Cairo Tuesday after endorsing amendments to the company's charter, paving the way for expansion and greater authorities in land and maritime transport operations.

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Call their bluff

WASHINGTON'S reaction to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's historic speech to the United Nations General Assembly Tuesday on peace in the Middle East is indeed perplexing. Not only did Mr. Arafat unequivocally accept United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, renounce terrorism in all its forms and accept the right of Israel to exist — he also appealed to Israeli leaders to come and meet him in Geneva to negotiate permanent peace for all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

For the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his clique to spurn the clearest even peace overture from the Palestinian side was something that was expected in view of Likud's arrogant refusal to negotiate with the PLO no matter what. But for the United States to submit the false argument that the PLO is still ambiguous on the principal terms for peace is truly an insult to their own intelligence.

The PLO's acceptance of the so-called "conditions" arrogantly put forth by Henry Kissinger when he was the U.S. Secretary of State back in 1975. One can understand the United States not saying anything about Arafat's Geneva speech on Tuesday, but to say that they still do not understand his words is something that is truly beyond reasonable comprehension.

The Palestinian side is already arguing that they have exposed practically all their cards prematurely and for no returns. There are many within the PLO who would submit and rightly so that the PLO offers for peace are already over extended and that the Palestinian side has precipitously given away much of its bargaining position much too early and before the Israeli side sits at the negotiating table, if ever they even get to that stage. These are truly legitimate concerns that would call for a curb on making what appears to be unaccounted for Palestinian concessions.

It is indeed a very heavy responsibility to advise the PLO about to do next. Should the PLO call Washington and Tel Aviv's bluff and by using child-like language to rephrase its positions on the terms of peace between the Palestinian side and the Israelis? Obviously the damage ensuing from making too many concessions by the Palestinian side before hand has already materialised. The only thing that separates what the PLO has just enunciated and what Tel Aviv and Washington are still calling for is semantics. If Israel and the U.S. pretend that they still do not understand and insist on simple and rudimentary words to express highly sophisticated and critical propositions, then the PLO should indulge them, if for no reason other than calling their bluff once and for all.

In fact, however, the real reason for the American refusal to be conceded to lies elsewhere. In the memorandum of agreement signed between Washington and Tel Aviv back in 1975, the United States agreed not to engage the PLO in any negotiations without the consent of the Israelis. This is the crux of the whole problem.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN dailies Wednesday commented on King Hussein's successful visit to France and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's peace plan as presented to the U.N. General Assembly meeting in Geneva. The King's successful visit following intensive talks with French President Francois Mitterrand manifests a positive stance not only on the part of Paris but also all the European Community nations. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said. The European stand backed by support from the world community to the Palestinian people's rights are all very favourable elements for peace, prompting King Hussein to announce that he was optimistic about chances for the establishment of peace in the Middle East. The paper added. The paper said that the PLO chairman has now presented his peace plan to Israel and the world at large, having his ideas on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. This hand, extended for peace, should be met with very constructive attitudes on the part of the Israelis and the Americans and should be considered as a first step towards ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper added. It said that the Arabs and the Palestinians are now awaiting the world community's reaction and a meaningful development towards the question of peace.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, columnist Abdul Rahim Omar says that now Arafat has extended his hand for peace and an end to the Middle East conflict, the Arabs must find ways and create the necessary elements to give the idea a real momentum at all levels. To meet the conditions set by the U.S. and Israel, Arafat has done everything in his power and presented a peace plan that is acceptable to the whole world, the writer notes. He says that the Palestinians should now be helped by the world community to set up their state in Palestine in accordance with U.N. resolution 181 on the partition of that land into an Arab and Israeli state. In addition to pan-Arab moves to back Arafat's drive for peace, the writer notes, the Palestinians in the occupied territories should maintain their uprising, for it is because of this uprising that the Palestinians have won an overwhelming world-wide support, and because of the revolt the PLO leaders had been able to present their case to the world.

Al Dustour daily reflected on the immediate reaction by the international community to Arafat's speech in Geneva: which it said was warm and supportive, reflecting the world community's backing for the Palestinian people's rights. The PLO has now adopted a very moderate and realistic stance with regard to the Palestine issue and has submitted a peace plan to encourage Israel to accept peace, the paper noted. The favourable response to Arafat's speech prompted King Hussein, who has just concluded successful talks with the French president, to announce his optimism over an end to the 40-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict. The King considers Arafat's initiative as a new bid, giving further momentum to the peace efforts and encouraging the world community to embark on a serious endeavour to help end the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper noted. Let us hope, the paper added, that the U.S. will respond favourably to the PLO's ideas and help break the deadlock in the current efforts to establish peace.

Sawt Al Shaab daily discussed the PLO's bid for peace which was presented to the U.N. General Assembly in Geneva on Tuesday. The initiative leaves no doubt about the Palestinian leadership's orientation towards the establishment of peace based on U.N. Security Council resolutions which guarantee the rights of all peoples in the region including those of Israel, the paper noted. It said that as the Palestinians become more inclined towards peace, the Israelis prove to be more adamant in rejecting this peace and prove that they are determined to maintain their aggression and their occupation of Arab land. It said that the PLO's bid is a historic development and a chance which should not be missed by the international community if stability and security are to be re-established in the Middle East.

Next Israeli-U.S. condition: end the intifada

By Salameh Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff

AMMAN — The United States has described PLO leader Yasser Arafat's speech to the United Nations General Assembly in Geneva Tuesday as ambiguous. The Israeli premier said it constituted a monumental fraud.

Short of asking the U.S. administration and Tel Aviv to write Arafat's speeches for him, if not draw PLO policy on his behalf, it is practically very difficult to see what more concessions Arafat can make.

The frustration of most Middle East observers caused by the Israeli response to the PLO initiative was combined with greater anger at the United States on which most of the world depends to convince Israel of the benefits of flexibility.

On the short term, the American reaction was by no means irrational, stupid or miscalculated as many have suggested. In fact, it was very much calculated. It was a well-orchestrated response, coordinated between the Israeli leadership and the U.S. administration. This is evident if one understands the motivation behind the American and Israeli responses.

To begin with, it must be understood that even if Arafat had had George Shultz write his Geneva speech, the speech would have still been described as ambiguous and would have still been rejected out of hand by Tel Aviv.

It must also be understood that for the past 20 years, there had been no ambiguity about the position of Arab countries vis-a-vis the acceptance of resolution 242. This ambiguity has led the Arab states nowhere. So, why should it lead the PLO anywhere now?

The fact of the matter is that

the Israelis are not in the least interested in a Palestinian acceptance of 242 and 338 because the Israelis are not willing to implement them. The Israelis are not interested in PLO recognition of Israel's right to exist, because they don't recognise the PLO and because they already have the recognition of the rest of the world. The Israelis are not interested in having the PLO renounce terrorism, unless this renunciation means the end of all forms of resistance to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. And if this was achieved, then there would be no need for the Israelis to even think about changing the status quo.

As for the United States, what suits Tel Aviv suits Washington

"The fact remains that the Israelis have rejected every single peace plan put forward by all parties involved or concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the one put forward by their own strategic allies."

fine, thank you. The reasons for that are no more a secret to anyone. The Israeli influence on Washington is now considered a fact of life. In the memorandum of agreement between the governments of Israel and the United States, authored by Henry Kissinger, the U.S. agreed to concert its fully land seek to concert its position and strategy on the issue of the PLO with Israel.

The Israelis have absolutely no intention of making peace that is acceptable to the Palestinian and Arab side, unless it was peace in exchange for peace, no more.

This American administration has made it clear it will not overrule Israel. The forthcoming administration does not look much more promising.

Israelis, in concert with the present American administration and most likely, the forthcoming administration, are willing to issue conditions for peace talks as long as the PLO and the Arab side cannot afford to accept them. If they miraculously did accept these conditions, as did the PLO and the PNC recently, there would be new and tougher conditions.

The new conditions that is likely to be put to the PLO is to ask the organisation to show its sincerity by ordering a moratorium on the intifada in the occupied territories for a few weeks or few months so as to convince the Americans, and subsequently the Israelis (or vice versa), that the PLO is no more what it is — that is, a liberation movement fighting to liberate its occupied people and territories. They want the PLO to take their side and to stop being so Palestinian and perhaps become, a little bit more American and if possible, Israeli.

In Arab eyes, the PLO has taken a big gamble. From the look of things, they are likely to be now asked to give up their raison d'être and commit suicide.

So far, no voice from the new Bush administration indicates any dissent from the views of the present administration. In Israel, the Labour Party does not seem like it will contradict its Likud partner. In fact, the two major parties are now seeking to forge a convenient national coalition in order to defuse the internal crisis caused by the intifada and to be able to resist international pressure. The American role will be dedicated to help the Israelis reach that goal. The Israelis and

the Americans are, in a way, also taking a big gamble.

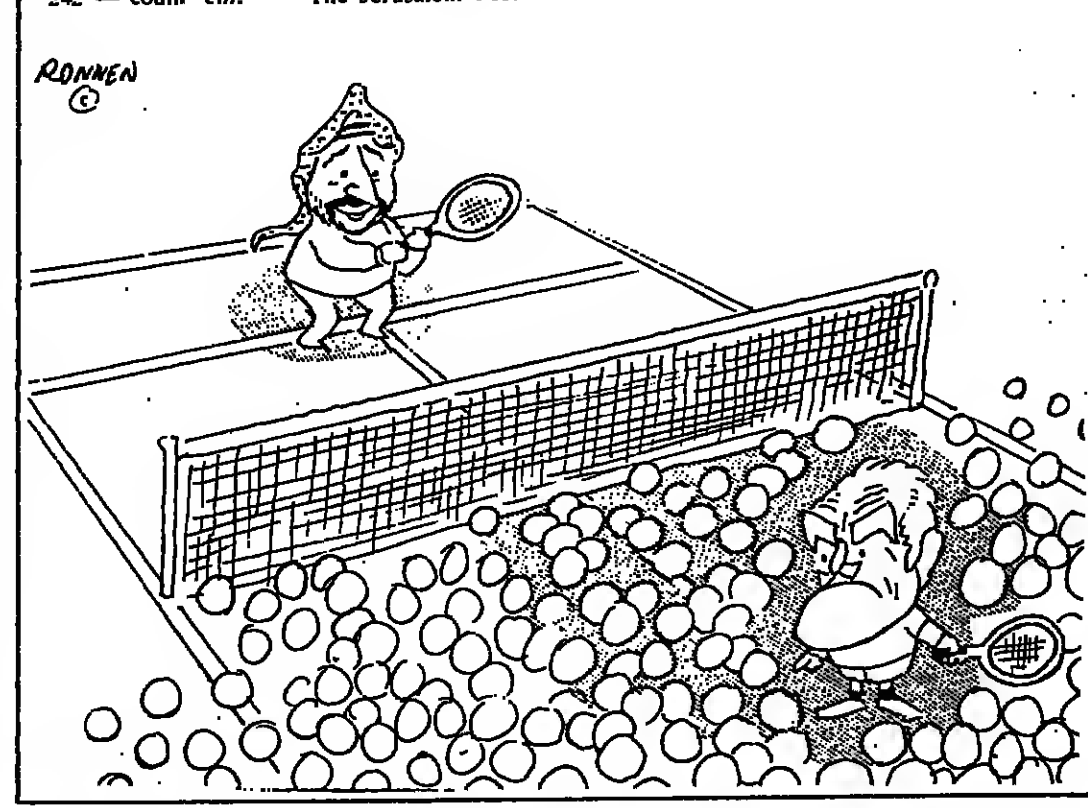
The Americans risk further alienating the Arabs of the Middle East, as well as jeopardising their interests in the region. The Israelis risk an escalation in the intifada which could become more bloody and violent with the possible use of arms by the Palestinian youth. This is without ruling out renewed PLO attacks on Israeli interests within and without Israel and the occupied territories. This means a return to the vicious cycle of violence and counter violence, with each side

blaming the other.

In the past, when the PLO and the Arabs used to say they wanted to throw the Israelis into the sea, Tel Aviv had a good excuse for its rejectionism. Today, no matter what the Israelis say, the fact remains that they have rejected every single peace plan or project put forward by all parties involved or concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the plan put forward by their own strategic allies. Yet, still, they have not produced any peace alternative or plan of their own. The Israelis have rejected the successive European peace

plans for the Middle East since the Venice declaration. They have rejected the Arab peace plan of Fez. They have rejected the Reagan plan of 1982 as well as the earlier Soviet plan of Brezhnev, and now, they have turned down the PLO's peace plan which is based on United Nations resolutions accepted by every single member of the international community of nations including the United States. Israel today, stands alone in the region and increasingly so, alone in the world. It is a sad reality that threatens much sadder consequences.

"242 — count 'em!" — The Jerusalem Post



'For God's sake, let's talk'

The following news analysis by Anthony Lewis, appeared in The New York Times December 11:

BOSTON — When a party to international conflict moderates its hostile words, diplomacy tests how meaningful the change is. You talk. You explore. You negotiate.

That course was followed by the Reagan administration, for example, with Mikhail Gorbachev. It tested his new rhetoric of peace, and it gradually moved from scepticism to the warmth of its reception for him last week.

How different has been the response to the Palestine Liberation Organisation and its chairman, Yasser Arafat. Over the last months they have voiced a new moderation on the question of peace with Israel. But various leaders in Israel and the United States, instead of calling for diplomacy to test those words, have condemned them out of hand — and exorcised the very idea of talking with the PLO.

The reaction reached a peak of hysteria last week when Arafat and colleagues met in Stockholm with five prominent American Jews. The PLO members, expounding on its recent resolution in Algiers, said it "accepted the existence of Israel as a state in the

region." The statement spoke affirmatively of U.N. Resolution 242, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory to "secure and recognised" boundaries.

Those were striking changes in the PLO's historic position. They were changes that Israel and its supporters have long urged. But in Israel, leaders of both major parties brushed them off with hostile comments.

Some leaders of American Jewish organisations made vicious attacks on the five Americans who went to Stockholm and drew the moderate words from the PLO. The president of the Zionist Organisation of America, Milton Shapiro, said they were "renegades who had 'violated the memories of the victims of terrorism and the holocaust.'"

How is one to explain the extremity of the negative reaction? Why should a meeting that more clearly articulated a milder PLO stance make some leaders and supporters of Israel angry?

One reason given was that the PLO was not sufficiently explicit, for example about Resolution 242. The Stockholm statement said the PLO was ready to negotiate at an international conference, on the basis of 242 and "the

right of the Palestinian people to self-determination." That did indeed add another element to 242.

But if faithfulness to 242 is the test of international acceptability, then the government of Israel fails the test. Prime Minister Shamir has repeatedly said that Israel will not withdraw from the territory it occupies, as 242 requires.

The same is true on the question of recognition. The PLO has now said that it accepts Israel. Maybe those words are not sincere; they have to be tested. But the government of Israel has so far rejected the very idea of nationhood for the Palestinians, and spurned their representative, the PLO.

The United States, as the prime outside influence in the Middle East, should be responding to the PLO moves with the usual course of diplomacy: talking, drawing out the PLO. But Washington is sitting lamely on the sidelines, paralysed by political fear.

The British government has no trouble seeing the possibilities now. William Waldegrave, a Foreign Office minister, said the other day that if Arafat confirms the Stockholm position when he speaks to the United Nations in Geneva, then "the next steps

must come from Israel."

"We should ask for exactly the same declarations from Israel," Waldegrave said — "namely that they would accept 242... and early progress toward an international conference at which negotiations between the two principal parties of Israel and the Palestinians can settle these matters."

In the end there can be peace only if the two claimants to that same small piece of land sit down and talk. It cannot be easy. There are deep and valid fears to overcome, memories of terrorism and hatred. But the alternative to negotiation is endless hostility, corruption and death.

The American Jews who went to Stockholm know very well that they cannot speak for Israel. They just hoped to bring negotiation a little closer. One of them was Menachem Rosensaft, whose parents survived Auschwitz. He said:

"There are miles to go. But for God's sake let's start talking. When you talk, you de-monic the enemy."

"We have got the PLO saying they accept Israel (using the name) as a state (using the international legal term) in the region. That's what we've been waiting for. Now let's get on with it."

1988: elections, coups bring on changes

By John Wright
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The United States, Pakistan and Ecuador changed government peacefully in 1988, while Mexico's elections turned controversial and Israel's led to weeks of manoeuvring to form a new government coalition.

Amid violent unrest, Haiti changed its government three times and Burma twice.

In other elections and plebiscites worldwide:

— Chileans, in a yes-or-no plebiscite, turned down an extension of military leader President Augusto Pinochet's term.

— Lebanon ended the year with two competing governments.

— Existing leaders won reelection in France, Canada, Venezuela, Finland and Segegal.

Guatemala, the Maldives and Bophuthatswana, a South African homeland, repelled coup attempts. Panama's president was fired, and Lebanon ended the year with two competing governments.

In the United States, Vice President George Bush won the presidency Nov. 8 in what was widely interpreted as a public show of support for his boss, President Ronald Reagan, who was ineligible for re-election.

With low rates of unemployment and inflation working in the Republicans' favour, Bush beat Democratic party nominee Michael Dukakis by a 54-46 per cent margin. However, Bush will face a Congress firmly controlled by the Democratic opposition.

Voters in Canada liked the ruling Conservatives and returned Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to another term on Nov. 21. The vote was also considered a referendum on Mulroney's free-trade agreement with the United States.

In Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari won the presidency July 6 amid charges of massive voter fraud. Salinas de Gortari was certified as getting 50.36 per cent of the vote against two major candidates to his left and right. For the first time, opposition parties won seats in the senate, and the governing party lost a working majority in the chamber of deputies.

In Israel, the center-left Labour and right-wing Likud parties tried to put together a coalition after neither won a majority of parliament seats in the Nov. 1 elections. Likud's talks with small religious parties stalled over orthodox Jews' demands for stringent religious laws.

In Haiti, civilian Leslie Manigat won violence-marred elections on Jan. 17. He was overthrown on June 20 by Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, who led the military junta that assumed power when former president-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier fled in 1986. A Sept. 17 barracks revolt toppled Namphy and brought Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril to power.

In Burma, Maung Maung on Aug. 19 became Burma's first civilian president in 26 years. He

replaced Sein Lwin, who lasted only 17 days because of widespread chaos and bloodshed. Sein Lwin took over after the July 23 resignation of Ne Win, whose authoritarian rule had endured since 1962.

In Pakistan, President Zia Ul Haq died in an Aug. 17 plane crash, whose cause is still a mystery. The government went ahead with the elections Zia had called for November and permitted candidates, contrary to Zia's intentions, to run as representatives of political parties. The victor was Benazir Bhutto's center-left People's Party, to power, making the 35-year-old Ms. Bhutto the first woman leader of a modern-day Muslim nation.

In Palau, a Pacific island chain associated with the United States, President Lazarus Salii committed suicide Aug. 20 and Ngratkel Etpison won election as president Nov. 2.

In Ecuador, center-left lawyer Rodrigo Borja succeeded right-wing President Leon Febres Cordero in the May 8 elections, promising more government intervention in that South American country's battered economy and a non-aligned foreign policy. Febres Cordero had been one of America's staunchest Latin American allies.

In Thailand, Chatichai Choonhavan was installed as prime minister with the backing of six coalition parties after July 24 elections, replacing Prem Tinsulanonda, the nation's longest-serving prime minister, who resigned.

In Hungary, Miklos Nemeth became prime minister Nov. 24, replacing Communist Party leader Karoly Grosz in that job. Grosz resigned the premiership to concentrate on the more powerful party post, and said Nemeth would be well-equipped to bring new ideas to economic management and implement an austerity programme.

In Chile, Pinochet lost an Oct. 5 referendum that would have extended his term until 1997 by a 55-43 margin, forcing him to call open elections, now planned for December 1989. The general has led Chile since leading a right-wing coup in 1973.

In France, Mitterrand won a second seven-year term May 8 with 54 per cent of the vote, a result that was attributed more to his personal popularity than to a mandate for his Socialist programmes. Lebanon now has two competing governments. Each has been claiming legitimacy since mid-August, when parliament failed to elect a successor to President Amin Gemayel at the end of his six-year term. Gemayel appointed army commander Gen. Michael Aoun as prime minister, but Syria backs Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who took office in June 1987.

In Finland, 64-year-old President Mauno Koivisto won reelection in a five-candidate field Feb. 1.

Qui trompe qui?

Que veut Washington et Tel-Aviv? Tout se passe comme si, même dans l'hypothèse où Shultz lui-même avait écrit la déclaration de Yasser Arafat à Genève — on n'en est pas loin, elle aurait été rejetée avec le même mépris. Le fait est que les Israéliens ne trouvent aucun intérêt à la reconnaissance par l'OLP des résolutions 242 et 338 des Nations-Unies, parce qu'ils ne veulent en aucun cas les mettre en application. Israël ne recherche pas sa reconnaissance par l'OLP car l'Etat juif est déjà reconnu par le reste du monde. Il se moque également de l'abandon du terrorisme par la centrale palestinienne, à moins que cette renonciation entraîne la fin de toute forme de résistance dans les territoires occupés.

En clair, Tel-Aviv ne recherche pas une paix qui puisse convenir à la partie arabe, à moins d'obtenir la paix en échange de la paix seulement. Et ce qui est vrai pour Israël est aussi pour son grand allié américain, dont la seule cohérence réside dans une harmonie complète avec l'Etat hébreu.

Israël, en accord avec Washington, cherchera donc toujours à imposer aux Palestiniens des conditions qu'ils ne pourront jamais accepter, de placer la barre toujours plus haut. La prochaine de ces conditions pourrait être la suivante: demander à l'OLP, comme preuve de pacifisme, un gel de quelques semaines ou de quelques mois de l'intifada dans les territoires occupés. En somme, on exigerait de l'OLP qu'elle ne soit plus ce qu'elle est, à savoir un mouvement de libération. Quel de plus pratique pour avoir la paix que de demander à l'adversaire de se suicider?

L'administration Bush prendra ses distances avec Israël, entend-on ici et là. Mais pour l'instant, aucune voix de l'opposition ne s'est élevée contre l'attitude des hommes de Reagan. Quant au parti travailliste israélien, il ne prend pas non plus le chemin d'un affrontement avec les faucons de Shamir. Les deux partis sont au contraire en train de rechercher l'entente dans un gouvernement de coalition. Pour parler d'une seule voix et mieux résister à la pression internationale décapitée par l'intifada. Mais si la politique de la main tendue est ainsi sabotée, les armes à feu pourraient bien un jour remplacer les pierres dans les territoires occupés.

Salameh Ne'matt

EN BREF

Attaque israélienne au Liban

L'armée israélienne a lancé le 9 décembre une opération éclair contre des positions tenues par le Front populaire de libération de la Palestine (FPLP) à Maameh, village côtier au sud de Beyrouth. Deux cent parachutistes israéliens, largués par hélicoptère, ont pris part à cette attaque, qui a fait 9 morts du côté des assaillants. En face, 4 combattants Palestiniens et cinq miliciens druzes du Parti socialiste progressiste (PSP) ont été tués. C'est la première fois depuis l'invasion de 1982 que les Israéliens s'enfoncent aussi loin au Liban (la zone attaquée se situait à 80 km au nord de la frontière israélienne).

Faux billets: 27 arrestations

Vingt sept personnes ont été arrêtées depuis octobre par la police jordanienne dans le cadre de la lutte contre les faux monnaies. La police déclare avoir saisi en deux mois et demi 40.000 dollars américains, 10.000 livres turques et 500 riyals saoudiens en faux billets. Quinze des suspects arrêtés sont jordaniens et les autres viennent de pays arabes voisins. La fausse monnaie était fabriquée dans ces pays et écoulée auprès des changeurs notamment. Selon la police, ce regain de faux monnaies trouve son explication dans la hausse récente du dollar et la forte demande de devises étrangères en Jordanie.

Le saviez-vous? La Pravda en arabe

La Pravda, organe officiel du parti communiste d'Union soviétique, devrait prochainement être disponible en version arabe. Un accord en ce sens a été signé entre la direction du journal soviétique et Mestri Noueichi, rédacteur en chef de l'hebdomadaire caennais Al-Anba, connu pour ses liens avec le pouvoir égyptien. Selon les termes de cet accord, la Pravda traduite en arabe devrait être publiée à partir du 1er janvier 1989. Meilleurs vœux. (Arabes, décembre)

La visite du Roi Hussein en France

Paix: l'axe Amman-Paris

Le Roi Hussein a effectué de lundi à mercredi: visite officielle "de travail" en France, à l'invitation de François Mitterrand. Il s'agit de la troisième visite de ce type effectuée cette année en France par le souverain Hachémite. Le Roi a notamment eu des entretiens avec M. Mitterrand, le premier ministre Michel Rocard, le ministre de la défense Jean-Pierre Chevènement et le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Roland Dumas.

Le Roi Hussein s'est déclaré "optimiste" quant à un règlement prochain du conflit israélo-arabe, mardi à l'issue d'un entretien suivi d'un déjeuner de travail à l'Elysée avec le président François Mitterrand.

Le monarque Hachémite a fondé son optimisme, d'une part, sur "l'attention que porte la communauté internationale à un règlement juste et honorable" de la question palestinienne, et, d'autre part, sur "l'attitude positive et responsable de l'OLP" ainsi que sur la situation dans les territoires occupés, un an après le début de l'intifada.

"Je suis personnellement optimiste pour le présent et pour l'avenir", a-t-il dit, en soulignant que la centrale palestinienne — en adhérant à la résolution 242 du Conseil de sécurité qui prévoit la reconnaissance implicite d'Israël et en proclamant un Etat indépendant — avait fait preuve d'une "attitude très positive".



Le Roi a d'autre part estimé que le problème du Liban devait être examiné "le plus tôt possible au niveau d'un sommet arabe".

Qualifiant de "très réussie" sa visite en France ou il est arrivé lundi, le souverain a indiqué que son entretien avec le président Mitterrand avait porté sur "tous les sujets bilatéraux, régionaux, inter-arabes et internationaux".

Mardi après-midi, le Roi Hussein a reçu au Palais Marjany, au révérend les hôtes de la France, M. Dumas, de retour d'une visite

officielle en Egypte, ainsi que M. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, ministre de la défense.

La France et la Jordanie ont conclu un accord en février 1988, portant sur la vente de vingt avions de combat Mirage 2000 au Royaume, la modernisation de 15 Mirage F1, et en guise de compensation technologique pour Amman, la construction d'une usine de maintenance en Jordanie pour le matériel français. Le contrat finalisé en avril 1988 à Amman a porté sur l'achat de douze

mirages.

Un accord portant sur la constitution d'une commission mixte économique franco-jordanienne a été signé par Michel Rocard et son homologue jordanien, Zeid Rifai. Placée sous la double présidence du ministre du plan jordanien et du ministre du commerce extérieur français, cette commission sera chargée de faciliter et de développer les échanges économiques entre les deux pays. La France est le 7ème fournisseur de la Jordanie et les échanges entre les deux pays ont enregistré en 1988 un solde positif en faveur de la France de 473 millions de francs (environ 79 millions de dollars).

Rôles pivots

Dans la presse arabe, on souligne le rôle pivot joué par la France au sein de la Communauté européenne et sa position en pointe en faveur d'un règlement du conflit israélo-arabe. Selon les observateurs, la France peut jouer un rôle particulier dans le processus de paix en sa qualité de membre permanent du Conseil de sécurité des Nations-Unies, ouverte sur les vues arabes, et pouvant influencer à la fois sur Moscou et sur Washington.

Dans son éditorial du 14 décembre, le Jordan Times soulignait l'importance particulière du dialogue Paris-Amman: "Paris occupe une position particulière, sur le plan européen comme sur le plan mondial, et l'utilise avec efficacité dans son aide à la recherche d'une solution pacifique au Proche-Orient: Amman

aussi joue un rôle pivot dans la construction d'une paix durable désirée par tous. C'est pourquoi la visite de Leurs Majestés en France est un voyage pour la paix au Proche-Orient de même qu'une nouvelle stimulation des relations franco-jordanienes.

Le Roi Hussein a déclaré mardi à Paris que M. Yasser Arafat a "répondu à toutes les exigences des Etats-Unis", en acceptant la tenue d'une conférence internationale sur la base des résolutions 242 et 338 du Conseil de sécurité.

Commentant la réaction négative de Washington au discours prononcé par M. Arafat devant l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU à Genève, le Roi, qui intervenait sur la chaîne de télévision française Antenne-2, a fait la déclaration suivante: "J'ai le regret de dire clairement et franchement que le président Arafat a répondu à chacune des exigences des Etats-Unis. Je sais ce qui était attendu de l'OLP d'autant plus que je suis intervenu dans le passé auprès des Etats-Unis pour le compte de l'OLP".

Le monarque Hachémite faisait allusion aux démarches qu'il avait entreprises en 1986 à la suite de la signature d'un accord de coordination politique entre la Jordanie et l'OLP, en vue de la constitution d'une délégation conjointe jordanio-palestinienne à d'éventuels pourparlers de paix.

Le porte-parole du Département, M. Charles Redman, a estimé mardi que les discours de M. Arafat, tout en contenant "certains développements intéressants et positifs", était resté "ambigu". (Avec AFP)

Au même moment à Genève...

Réunion d'un comité préparatoire à la conférence de paix, titulaire des Nations-Unies sur les territoires occupés, condamnation explicite du terrorisme: le discours de Yasser Arafat le 13 décembre à Genève n'a pas convaincu Tel-Aviv et Washington, toujours insatisfaits par la reconnaissance d'Israël par l'OLP et dubitatifs quant au rejet du terrorisme par la centrale palestinienne.

Le président de l'OLP, Yasser Arafat, a présenté mardi 13 décembre, devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations-Unies, une initiative de paix, invitant les Israéliens à la rejoindre à Genève. "Faisons la paix, oublions la peur et l'intimidation (...). Je demande aux dirigeants d'Israël de venir ici, sous l'égide des Nations-Unies, afin qu'ensemble nous puissions construire la paix," a déclaré le leader palestinien.

La main tendue de Yasser Arafat a été décrite par le premier ministre israélien Yitzhak Shamir comme une "monumentale tromperie". L'OLP est une organisation "terroriste", a-t-il déclaré, qui ne vise qu'à la destruction d'Israël.

A Washington, le porte-parole du Département d'Etat Charles Redman a déclaré: "Le discours contient certaines idées positives et intéressantes, mais il demeure ambigu sur les problèmes-clés, qui doivent être clairement abordés pour que les Etats-Unis entament le dialogue avec l'OLP".

Washington pose les conditions suivantes: reconnaissance du droit d'Israël à exister; renonciation au terrorisme; acceptation des résolutions 242 et 338 des Nations-Unies, qui stipulent le droit de tous les Etats du Moyen-Orient de vivre avec des frontières garan-

ties et le retrait israélien des territoires occupés. "Le discours d'Arafat ne satisfait pas nos conditions," a conclu M. Redman.

Voici les passages du discours de M. Arafat dans lesquels il introduit son initiative de paix:

"A cette étape, le rôle des Nations-Unies et des cinq membres permanents du Conseil de Sécurité, celui des blocs et des instances internationales est vital. Et c'est pourquoi, j'ai l'honneur (...) de vous présenter l'initiative de paix palestinienne suivante:

- 1) Que de sérieux efforts soient déployés pour réunir le comité préparatoire de la conférence internationale de paix au Moyen-Orient, sous l'égide du Secrétaire général des Nations-Unies, et ce sur la base de l'initiative des deux présidents Gorbatchev et Mitterrand, (...) initiative prélu-

à la tenue de la conférence internationale, qui est appuyée par la totalité des Etats dans le monde, à l'exception du gouvernement d'Israël.

2) Partant de notre foi en le rôle vital des Nations-Unies (...) nous réclamons une action visant à mettre notre terre palestinienne occupée sous la tutelle momentanée des Nations-Unies; que s'y déploient des forces internationales qui protègent notre peuple en même temps qu'elles supervisent le retrait des troupes israéliennes.

3) L'OLP recherchera un règlement global avec les parties concernées au conflit arabo-israélien, y compris l'Etat de Palestine, Israël et ses autres pays voisins dans le cadre de la conférence internationale de paix, sur la base des résolutions 242 et 338 du Conseil de Sécurité, de façon à garantir l'égalité et l'équilibre des in-

térêts, et tout particulièrement le droit de notre peuple à la liberté et l'indépendance nationale ainsi que le respect du droit de tous à exister dans la paix et la sécurité.

Sur le terrorisme, M. Arafat a déclaré:

"Cette position est claire et sans équivoque. En dépit de cela, je réaffirme ici une fois encore, en tant que président de l'OLP, que je condamne le terrorisme sous toutes ses formes. Et je salue tous ceux que je vois face à moi dans cette salle, qui ont un jour été accusés d'être des terroristes par leurs bourreaux et leurs colonisateurs au cours des combats menés dans leurs pays pour les libérer du joug de la colonisation: ce sont aujourd'hui des dirigeants investis de la confiance de leurs peuples et de fidèles et sincères partisans des principes et des valeurs de la justice et de la liberté."

Le secret de leur construction découvert?

Pyramides: histoire d'eau

Le secret des pyramides d'Egypte est avant tout celui de leur construction: Manuel Minguez, ingénieur français, a récemment découvert un système de flottage par écluses, qu'il a lui-même expérimenté.

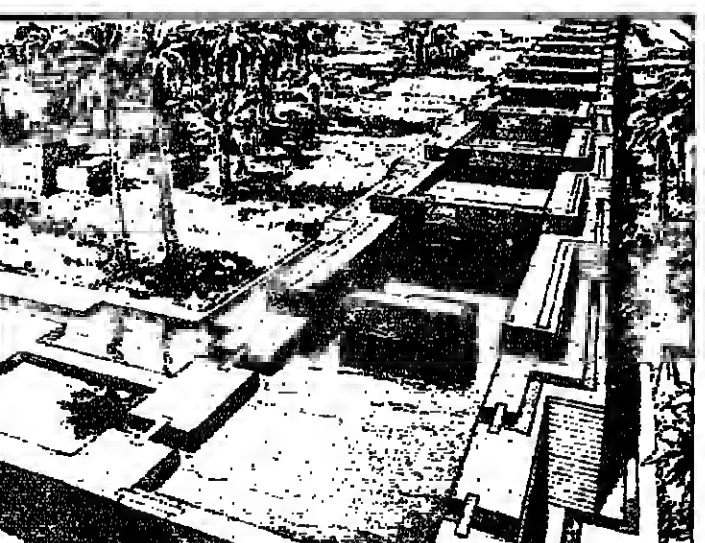
Avec 146 m, Kéops, la Grande Pyramide, construite il y a 47 siècles, fut pendant 4.000 ans le plus haut monument érigé par l'homme. Pour nous faire une idée de la masse de pierre qu'elle représente, nous pouvons reprendre — en le corrigé — un calcul fait par Napoléon: avec elle, on pourrait entourer le territoire de la France métropolitaine d'un mur de 1,50 m de hauteur et de 30 cm d'épaisseur.

A l'époque de la construction de Kéops, les Egyptiens ignoraient l'usage de la roue: les seuls métaux qu'ils connaissaient — mis à part les plombs — étaient le cuivre et le plomb; quant aux éléments techniques de manipulation et de levage, ils ne disposaient guère que du plan incliné et du levier. Comment purent-ils extraire, transporter sur plusieurs centaines de kilomètres et manipuler avec la plus grande précision les 2.300.000 blocs de pierre de la Grande Pyramide, pesant chacun entre 1,5 et 15 tonnes? Ou tailler, transporter et installer, quelques siècles plus tard, des obélisques monolithiques de centaines de tonnes, comme ceux de Karnak?

La plupart des égyptologues supposent que blocs et obélisques furent transportés par bateau au long du Nil depuis les carrières jusqu'à un port proche du chantier, et de là jusqu'à ce dernier sur des tréneaux de bois tirés par des dizaines d'hommes le long des rampes humectées ou huilées pour faciliter le glissement des patins: cette hypothèse s'appuie principalement sur des images peintes dans des tombes antiques.

Mystère

En revanche, pour expliquer le levage et la manipulation des blocs de pierre et la mise en place des obélisques, on a formulé les



Le système d'écluses qui permettait d'acheminer par portage les blocs de pierre

hypothèses les plus diverses: certains ont attribué gratuitement aux constructeurs l'invention d'invasibles appareils dont on voit mal, d'ailleurs, à quoi ils auraient pu servir; d'autres, ne craignant pas de commettre un anachronisme flagrant, ont supposé l'usage de complexes agencements de machines (poulies, treuils, cabestans, etc.) dont l'existence n'est attestée qu'à des époques beaucoup plus tardives: sans parler de ceux qui, en désespoir de cause, ont invoqué la lévitation ou l'intervention d'extra-terrestres.

Il y a quelques années, Manuel Minguez, technicien du génie civil, participant à des travaux d'aménagement du cours de la Muselle, dut résoudre un problème: transporter sur quelque 300 mètres une barge de 50 tonnes. Fêtu archéologique, il songea à se servir des méthodes attribuées aux Egyptiens, améliorées par l'emploi de techniques modernes. Au moyen de deux grues, il hissa la charge sur un traineau métallique fabriqué ad hoc et tiré par deux tracteurs développant une puissance de 600 chevaux. Echéec total: les chenilles patinaient et les câbles d'acier s'effiloçaient. M. Minguez eut alors recours à une autre méthode "avalisée" par

les égyptologues. Le traineau fut hissé sur des rondins. Au bout de quelques mètres, ceux-ci se mirent en travers... Il fallut huit jours pour parcourir 300 mètres: "La preuve était faite qu'avec ou sans rondins, la technique du traineau n'était nullement adaptée à la réalisation de travaux d'envergure."

Mais alors, comment les bâtisseurs égyptiens avaient-ils procédé? Pendant des années, Manuel Minguez chercha — et finit par trouver — une réponse, fondée sur l'expérience et sur la lecture attentive de textes anciens. Il l'a développée dans deux livres passionnants: Les pyramides d'Egypte et Des pyramides aux obélisques.

Selon lui, les blocs (comme plus tard les obélisques) furent transportés depuis les carrières jusqu'au port aménagé à proximité des chantiers non pas sur des harques (comme tenu de la capacité réduite et de l'instabilité due à l'absence de quille dans les embarcations égyptiennes de l'époque, celles-ci auraient chaviré), mais accrochés sous elles à l'aide de cordes. Cette technique présentait un double avantage: l'allègement du poids grâce à la poussée d'Archimède (force ascendante s'exerçant sur tout

solide immergé) et un considérable gain de stabilité, le bloc de pierre faisant office de quille.

Au fil de l'eau

Pour permettre aux bateaux de transporter leur charge jusqu'au chantier, les Egyptiens auraient aménagé un système d'écluses, véritable "escalier hydraulique", construit à l'aide de gabions en osier remplis de pierre et de glaise. Enfin, la création d'un lac artificiel sur l'emplacement même de la pyramide permettait de manoeuvrer aisément les pierres, avec leurs flotteurs, jusqu'à la mise en place définitive. (L'installation des obélisques s'expliquerait par des procédés analogues).

Les thèses de Manuel Minguez ne sont pas seulement originales, ingénieuses et cohérentes. Leur plausibilité technique est étayée — ce qui n'est pas toujours le cas — par des arguments chiffrés à base expérimentale. Les constructions dont on a trouvé des vestiges au voisinage de chaque pyramide en particulier un "temple bas" et une "châssée processionnelle" le reliant au monument principal, auxquelles on attribue habituellement un rôle purement rituel, reçoivent par là une justification pratique (le premier correspondant à l'ensemble portuaire et la seconde au canal à écluses). Enfin, certains textes d'auteurs anciens tels qu'Hérodote ou Diodore concernant les pyramides ainsi qu'un célèbre papyrus, tenus jusqu'ici pour obscurs, deviennent transparents à la lumière de ces hypothèses.

Manuel Minguez est persuadé que sa théorie peut rendre également compte de l'érection d'autres monuments du passé dans le monde entier, depuis les énormes statues de l'île de Pâques jusqu'aux mégalithes de l'Europe de l'Ouest, en passant par des constructions précolombiennes comme celles de Sacasahum (Pérou) et de Palenque (Mexique). Il prépare à présent un volume consacré aux mégalithes de Stonehenge (Angleterre).

Luis Felipe Career (IP)

FIGURE

In vitro à Amman



Dr. Zeid Keilani: un pionnier

Le Dr. Zeid Keilani dirige le Centre jordanien pour le traitement de la stérilité, pionnier de la fécondation "in vitro" dans le Royaume. Sa clinique, qui emploie aujourd'hui six médecins et quatre biologistes, effectue 300 opérations par an, dont la moitié sur des patients venus de l'étranger.

Le rêve a germé dans l'esprit du Dr. Keilani en 1978. Il se trouvait en Angleterre lorsque Louise Brown, le tout premier "bébé-éprouvette", est née à Londres. Dès 1982, il dirigeait à Amman la première équipe du Moyen-Orient spécialisée dans la fécondation "in vitro".

"Cela n'a pas été facile au début; nous avons dû faire face à des difficultés matérielles — notamment l'incendie qui a entièrement ravagé notre première clinique — et gagner la confiance de nos patients", se souvient le Dr. Keilani. Les premiers résultats n'étaient pas très probants: 0% de réussite pendant la première année. Aujourd'hui, il atteint 31%, le même que celui observé dans tous les bons centres du monde.

La méthode consiste à extraire l'ovule de l'utérus de la mère et à le mettre en présence de spermatozoïdes provenant du père (on ne pratique pas en Jordanie le don anonyme). Si la fécondation "prend" (31% des cas), l'oeuf est inséminé dans l'utérus de la mère 48 heures plus tard. La grossesse

se déroule ensuite de la façon la plus classique.

Selon le Dr. Keilani, les tabous moraux qui entourent le sujet des "bébés éprouvés" sont encore nombreux en Jordanie. Les patients ont surtout peur d'une confusion sur l'identité du père ou de la mère au moment de l'insémination, sans parler de la honte souvent associée à la stérilité du couple.

"Nous sommes conscients de l'existence de ces préjugés. C'est pour cela que nous insistons tout particulièrement sur le respect du secret professionnel", dit le Dr. Keilani. "Nous déconseillons même au couple de révéler plus tard la vérité à l'enfant ou à son entourage scolaire, social et professionnel. On évite ainsi que son comportement et ses capacités ne soient associés à la façon dont il a été conçu."

La rapidité de l'opération de fécondation in vitro et des analyses nécessaires assurent la discrétion. "La patiente pourrait aussi bien avoir un rendez-vous chez le dentiste. De plus, les nouvelles techniques d'extraction de l'ovule ne nécessitent plus d'anesthésie générale ni d'hospitalisation", souligne le Dr. Keilani.

Quant au coût de l'opération, il est de 300 dinars au premier essai, puis dégressif pour les suivants (le 5ème coûte 100 dinars, le 6ème est gratuit).

Marina Lyon

SORTIR

"HHH": 500 courses



"On, on" dans le cirque... de Pétra

Ca donne soif. Le HHH (Hash House Harriers) * d'Amman vient de fêter dignement son 500ème cross en courant à Aqaba puis Pétra. Deux jours de suite, faut-il préciser en imaginant les quantités de bière nécessaires à la réhydratation permanente de ces 150 sportifs téméraires. Ils étaient accueillis de Syrie, d'Irak, d'Arabie Saoudite et même des hordes anglo-écossaises pour participer, aux réjouissances.

Arrivés à l'hôtel d'Aqaba, beaucoup furent plus prompts à trouver le bar que leur chambre. Bière pour tout le monde. Moins spontané fut en revanche leur départ pour courir sur la plage. Nous n'avons pas plus d'informations sur cet épisode... La soirée, par contre, a laissé des souvenirs: il s'agissait d'un spectacle de fort bon goût, intitulé "Dyna Rod and the Supremes" (Dyna Rod est une marque de désinfectant w.c.) et interprété avec maestria par trois hommes du Hash très joliment travestis. Idéal pour les fêtes de fin d'année.

La fête bien lourde, on s'en fut le lendemain courir à Pétra, que personne ne s'étonna de voir rose. En petites foulées, le parcours débutait à l'entrée du Siq (canyon) et s'achevait au monastère due Deir... Il était donc plus prudent de faire discrètement demi-tour vers l'hôtel pour une petite Amstel bien méritée. Une 500ème mémorable, donc, mais deux questions demeurent toujours sans réponse: après quoi courent-ils? Combien de temps cela va-t-il encore durer?

Avec les colonnes de Nick Buxcey

* Secte ammanite d'obédience anglo-saxonne avec des filières dans de nombreux pays, sauf le Groenland. Activité: courir puis se rafraîchir, ou plutôt courir pour se rafraîchir. La tradition remonte à l'armée des Indes.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

L'année dernière à Marienbad

D'Alain Resnais, avec Delphine Seyrig (1963): dans un château de Bohême, des hommes et des femmes mènent une existence feutrée. Jusqu'à un jour où...

CCF, mardi 19 à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe)

Un Américain à Paris

De Vincente Minelli, avec Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron, Georges Guétary: comédie musicale de George Gershwin. Un GI reste à Paris après la guerre et devient artiste-peintre. Il tombe amoureux d'une jeune fille déjà promise...

Centre américain, jeudi 15 et dimanche 18 à 19h00 (en anglais)

Francesca

De Veron Rudolph (1986): Francesca, enfant de la rue, est recueillie par une comtesse et mise dans un monastère. Elle deviendra une star, puis membre de la mafia italienne.

Goethe Institut, samedi 17 à 20h00 (en allemand, sous-titré en anglais)

Ciné-club

ISéances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, 20h30 Le 15: Starman, Koolhaas Oasem, Gallipoli, Against all odds, Iron weed. Le 16: Flash dance, The chemist, Marni Braun marriage, Dawn of the Mummy, history of the world. Le 17: City curse, Maximal overdrive, Thriller, Phoenix. You can't win them all. Le 18: The vampire lovers, Touch of class, Rebecca, Ours for fire, Royal flash. Le 19: Three days of the condor, Thirty nine steps, Face of fear, An American warlock in London, Marisan chronical. Le 20: Shock waves, Popeye, Time rider, Carry on Cleo, Oklahoma Crude. Le 21: Passage to India, Full circle, For a new more dollars, Sharky machine, Possession. Films en version originale. Tel: 603901. Route de l'université, à droite après le bâtiment "Caterpillar", puis à gauche, 300m.

TELEVISION

"On a retrouvé la 7ème compagnie", de Robert Lamoureux, avec Jean Lefebvre et Pierre Mondy: 1940, la débâcle personnelle de quatre militaires. Grâce à une dépense de chars prise à l'ennemi, ils parviennent à faire évader leur compagnie. Mais que faire, sans armes, dans un sous-bois encerclé par les Allemands? (JTV, vendredi 16 à 17h30).

Jordan's hearing impaired get their driving licenses

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At long last, and after protracted efforts, the first batch of Jordanians who are hearing impaired have managed to get their driving licenses. The obstacle they had been facing was not so much related to their ability to drive, but rather to the law allowing, or rather preventing, them from obtaining licenses. That law was amended in October of this year in order to allow them to practice what they consider a basic right.

Before it was amended, the applied law which was issued in 1976, stated that any partially hearing impaired person applying for a license had to be able to hear "a whisper from a distance of one metre away." Successful candidates would be granted a driver's license valid only for two years whereas normally licenses are valid for ten years.

Now that the amendment to the law has been passed, a partially or totally hearing impaired person can obtain a driving license (for private, non-commercial use only) provided he or she displays the

international sign of bearing impairment on the car bumper.

Last week, eight totally hearing impaired persons presented themselves for their driving tests. Six of them made it and are now in possession of their own driving licenses.

"This is a very big step for us," said Sabri, one of the successful candidates, in reference to the deaf community in Jordan. "Being perceived (by law) as an equal to any other hearing person is something we have been after for a long time."

But, the young carpenter added, "we have still not taken all our rights, and we continue to insist that the fact that we cannot hear does not mean we cannot do certain jobs."

Husam, like many other hearing impaired Jordanians, believes that other difficulties will have to be dealt with before members of the deaf community in Jordan are treated as fully equal.

A major issue, in his opinion, is that of employment. Many employers look at hearing impairment as a physical handicap, a matter which stands in their way of obtaining

jobs which they believe they are perfectly capable of doing.

"Health wise we are perfectly fit for many of the jobs offered, but usually, job announcements state that passing the medical test is a necessity," he said. "People should know that a hearing impairment is not a handicap."

Though they may still have a long way to go in obtaining fully equal status with other citizens, members of the deaf community in Jordan have, for the time being, scored some "victories." As of Jan. 5, Jordan television will be running a weekly news programme for the deaf. Reading — or "signing" the news — will be a sign language expert, who, incidentally, happens to be Sabri's sister, Hind.

She has been training in preparation for the programme along with the news editor at JTV. She will be deciding which news items are of most concern to members of the deaf community and those which can be easily understood by them, for the highest educational level that any deaf person in Jordan can reach is sixth grade.



Naguib Mahfouz, is worried that he cannot find any new characters to populate his new novel he is writing.

Mahfouz searches for new characters

By Jeffrey Bartholet
Reuter

CAIRO — Naguib Mahfouz sits by a window in a dark cafe, sipping Turkish coffee, watching Cairo stir to life in Revolution Square.

But the 1988 Nobel laureate for literature, author of more than 40 novels and short story collections, cannot find enough characters for a new book in the crowd churning outside.

"It seems to me very difficult to write a novel about our current situation," he says. "I wrote about Egypt when it was young and I was able to be provocative. Now corruption is a part of everyday life."

"When you read the newspapers, you have no reason to read a novel."

Mahfouz, the son of a merchant from Cairo's old city, has probed the remote corners and colourful alleyways of Egyptian society for more than half a century.

He charted the Egyptian

psyche through World War II, the 1952 Revolution that ended the monarchy, four more wars, peace with Israel and the assassination of President Anwar Sadat on October 6, 1981.

In an interview at the Ali Baba Cafe, where he spends each morning reading the daily papers, he likened today's Egypt to a group of drowning men, struggling to reach the surface.

"When President Hosni Mubarak came to power in 1981, Mahfouz said, the men were 30 metres under water."

"He pushed them up 20 metres, but there are still 10 metres to go."

"Any opponent can tell the people, 'this is nonsense, where is this air you are supposed to be breathing?'" he said. "If all the Egyptian people do not understand Mubarak, they will fall in unsafe hands."

Outside the cafe, Revolution Square has undergone a facelift. The buildings are painted, fresh grass grows in the centre and a new subway runs underneath.

But people hanging from buses and dodging traffic grumble about rising prices and poor wages. Egypt, \$43 billion in debt, imports most of its food and does not produce enough to pay the bills.

Extremists, influential among Egypt's young, worry Mahfouz. But the characters in his landscape are drawn in ambiguous shades.

He admires the zealots' sense of moral conviction, particularly when compared with Egypt's ostentatious new class of dealers and middlemen.

"Islam, as I understand it, is not harmful to our contemporary life. Among its main principles are those which support science, civilisation, equality between people and human rights," he

said. "The extremists have the most conviction, but in the wrong way," he added.

Mahfouz wrote all his books at home with a pen or pencil and flinches at the mere mention of a typewriter.

His face, which now adorns an Egyptian postage stamp, is thin and slightly stubbled, but quick to smile. Dark glasses protect his eyes, too weary to read fine print, and his hearing is poor.

The Nobel prize ceremony was held in Stockholm on December 11, Mahfouz's 77th birthday. But because of health problems, including diabetes, he was not there.

In his place, his daughters Om Kalthoum and Fatima received the prize, the first awarded to a writer in Arabic.

Mahfouz has rarely travelled outside Egypt.

Some of his best-known novels are set in the poor and crowded neighbourhoods of Cairo's old city. In dingy cafes and apartment blocks, the lives of Egypt's vast lower class have been plucked by Mahfouz.

The poverty Mahfouz recorded 40 years ago, when one of his characters maimed people to make them more successful beggars, has mostly gone, he said.

"Their financial situation has improved and their materialistic values are competing with their spiritual values," he said of the lower class.

"Then they were very poor, they wanted money to live," he added. "But now it's different, they want money just to be wealthy."

Egypt's middle class of public sector employees is feeling the economic pinch today, Mahfouz said, because of their dependence on fixed wages during a period of high inflation.

Question from 1988:

Is shroud of Turin a fake? Are freed whales alive?

By Bill Cormier
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As 1988 ends, many questions remain unanswered:

— What caused the death in an air crash of Pakistan President Zia ul-Haq?

— What is the truth about the shroud of Turin?

— Who were the mysterious hijackers of a Kuwaiti plane, and the commandos who attacked a Greek cruise ship?

— Who bombed the motorcade of U.S. Secretary George Shultz in Bolivia?

— After a difficult, expensive and highly publicised effort to free two whales trapped in the Alaskan ice, did the whales ever make it safely to open water?

These are some of the mysteries that 1988 leaves behind:

The Kuwait hijacking

A Kuwaiti Airlines Jumbo Jet with 112 passengers and crew was hijacked April 5 on a flight from Thailand to Kuwait and rerouted to Iran and Cyprus. Two Kuwaitis were killed before the last hostages were freed in Algeria at the end of their 16-day ordeal.

Western intelligence sources said the nine hijackers were believed to be pro-Iranians of the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, or Party of God. But the identities of the hijackers were never revealed.

One published report said the hijackers — believed to be Lebanese with the exception of one Iranian — flew from Algeria to Syria and later reached Lebanon by land. There was no independent confirmation, but one diplomat, insisting on anonymity, said, "The men are believed to have gone underground with Hezbollah in a largely Shiite part of west Beirut where their trail is easily lost."

The cruise ship attack

On July 11, terrorists fired guns and hurled grenades aboard the Greek cruise ship City of Poros, killing nine people and injuring 98 other passengers returning from a day-long cruise on the Aegean Sea.

The United States claimed that the Palestinian group Abu Nidal probably waged the attack, but the organisation denied responsibility.

Anonymous callers claimed responsibility for a variety of other groups, including a Jewish group.

The Shultz attack

Shultz escaped unharmed Aug. 8 when a bomb exploded near his motorcade as he travelled to

downtown La Paz, Bolivia, from a nearby airport. The blast tore up pavement, damaged three cars and blew out the car window next to Shultz's wife. No one was hurt.

Bolivian investigators said they believe a radical leftist group, the Simon Bolivar Commando, was involved. Little is known about the group, which claimed responsibility for targeting Shultz during his 10-day Latin American tour. The State Department was investigating the attack but said it would not release its findings.

The Zia crash

A Pakistani military plane crashed just after takeoff Aug. 17 near Bahawalpur, Pakistan, and killed President Zia ul-Haq, U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel and 28 others. A Pakistani report shed little light on who may have been responsible for what investigators concluded was probably an act of sabotage.

The report ruled out accidental technical failure aboard the sturdy C-130 transport, and said investigators found no evidence of an anti-aircraft missile or a powerful bomb. But investigators discovered residues of chemicals that could be used in an explosive strong enough to cause a technical malfunction. If there was sabotage, suspects included agents of Afghanistan, angered by Zia's support for Islamic rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government; Pakistani ethnic or religious minorities; or agents of India, which has fought three wars with Pakistan. The Soviet Union and India have denied any involvement.

Some published reports suggested that if the Soviet Union or Afghanistan is implicated, neither Washington nor Islamabad will want to make public charges in order to avoid a confrontation.

The whales

On Oct. 7, a hunter off Point Barrow, Alaska, discovered three California gray whales trapped by early Arctic ice. In an expensive international operation, eskimos cut breathing holes for the whales with chain saws, and two Soviet icebreakers cleared a channel for the whales to start their trip back to open water. One of the whales apparently died in the process.

The weary survivors faced a swim to the open sea of 200 ice-clogged miles. Rescuers hope the pair successfully joined 21,000 fellow grays migrating 5,000 miles to warmer waters off Mexico, but the whales haven't been seen again and are unlikely to be spotted. Hope is high for their survival, however.

"They had the will to live," says rescue coordinator Ron Morris. "They should make it."

Genius myth is debunked

PSYCHOLOGISTS have at last discredited the old myth that genius is always inherited.

High intelligence and intellectual accomplishment have been linked in traditional psychology with heredity. However, new research makes nonsense of that theory.

Doubts about the old myth were expressed decades ago. In the United States 1,500 children of high intelligence were studied over many years. With IQs (intelligence quotients) of 135 or more, they should all have had outstanding careers, and many did. Yet a significant number fell short of expectations, failing to make full use of their talents in later life.

Surveys since then have shown similar returns. The plain truth is that scholastic achievement and career performance are quite separate roads.

Wolfgang Schneider, of the Max Planck Psychological Research Institute in West Germany, now believes that human attainment results from motivation as well as inherited intelligence.

Tomorrow's geniuses may emerge from children who are not only talented but whose motivational forces — stamina, commitment and determination to succeed — have been fully encouraged.

The effect of motivation has been seen in a study of the lives of more than 60 eminent scientists. Not all of them were outstandingly clever children. And not all were expected to become scientific geniuses when they grew up.

Their accomplishments were

the result of chance events that caused them to dedicate their lives to scientific research. Enthusiasm and persistence, as well as intellect, were the key factors in their career performances.

The study of the careers of the scientists revealed another important factor: their zeal led to the acquisition of much specialised knowledge within a short time. This unquenchable thirst for knowledge was a product of the scientists' dedication to their chosen fields.

With such knowledge, specialists not only in science but also in many other spheres are masters

of their craft, capable of extraordinary feats.

An example of the result of intense specialisation is seen in the performance of chess grandmasters. Despite the mystique of chess at this level, and the popular conception of a chess master having a superhuman brain, the real secret is a feat of memory rather than ability to formulate complex strategies.

Studies show that grandmasters can make a mental note of board positions in seconds, and draw on a bank of about 50,000 positions to make appropriate moves.

— Lion features.

Harvard curbs smoking

By Arlene Levinson

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) — When smoking professors returned to their offices two years ago for the fall semester at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, they discovered they had become overnight victims of a coup d'etat.

The school's own Institute for the Study of Smoking Behaviour and Policy had struck.

Those who chose to puff away inside the buildings now were forced to retreat to a small room, a smoker's purgatory with glass walls and hard chairs.

The small, wiry man behind it all, Professor Thomas Schelling, himself a reformed smoker, was remorseful about the smoking section. But not for long.

"I thought it was cruel and unusual punishment, but a stu-

dent said, 'Don't be hasty. Because of it I gave up smoking and so did my friend.'"

Everyone knows smoking tobacco is unhealthy. But the way in which a habit once considered sophisticated was transformed into a taboo is the kind of social change Schelling, as director of the Smoking Institute, wants to understand and harness.

Schelling's mission? "I want to help smokers," he says. By this he means persuading the 55 million American smokers to stop.

The original emphasis was on what can we find out about the problem of quitting that will help people quit when they want to, says the 67-year-old economist and self-taught behaviourist.

"Now we're focusing more on policy issues."

While other research groups examine the health effects of

smoking, Harvard's is thought to be the only one considering the deeper meaning of the habit.

"There isn't anything like it anywhere else in the world," says Dr. Elena Nightingale, adviser to the Carnegie Foundation of New York, a major institute sponsor.

Since it opened four years ago, this small, obscure research centre at Harvard University already has reached into more distant halls than the smoke-free ones under its roof.

Operating as a continuing forum, the institute hosts a study group of 20 to 40 interested professionals in the health, government and psychological fields who meet monthly to discuss and exchange the latest research.

In addition, at any given time some 15 assorted physicians, psychiatrists, students of government policy, health workers,

sociologists and the like attached to the institute conduct independent research. This could be anything from writing a social history of smoking to studies on the effectiveness of hypnosis in breaking tobacco addiction.

The purpose of the institute, on an annual budget of \$600,000, is to prompt outside research and then disseminate the results. In the words of Executive Director John Pinney, a former three-pack-a-day smoker and one-time chief of the federal office of Smoking and Health: "We set out to be a convenor and stimulator."

According to institute figures, there has been a steady decline in smoking since the 1950s. In 1949, 44 per cent of adults smoked. In 1986, the latest available figures, the proportion of adult smokers was 26.5 per cent.

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Bonn unhappy over German 'impatience'

WUERZBURG, West Germany (R) — West Germans are losing sight of the need to keep the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) strong in their growing impatience for more East-West arms cuts, Defence Minister Rupert Scholz said Wednesday.

Scholz, in a speech to West German armed forces chiefs, lashed out at the growing public opposition to NATO activities in West Germany, including flight training that has led to several crashes in populated areas this year.

"Our people are ever more impatiently expecting concrete disarmament steps. Simultaneously, understanding for the necessity of further defence efforts is diminishing," Scholz told the gathering of several hundred generals and admirals.

An opinion poll published Wednesday, six days after a U.S. military plane crashed in the town of Remscheid and killed six people, reported that 87 per cent of West Germans wanted a ban on NATO low-altitude flying man-

oeuvres. Scholz, a conservative Christian Democrat, and other senior officials in NATO say such a measure would cripple alliance preparedness in this front-line state.

Anti-military sentiment has increased in West Germany this year since several accidents during NATO manoeuvres and coinciding with a relaxation in East-West tension.

"Many of our people feel less threatened (by Soviet might) because they actually are less threatened," Scholz noted. "But what worries us are the false conclusions brought about by successful (arms control) policies."

He said West German and other NATO forces faced the challenge of restoring public support for military readiness because the East bloc remained a formidable adversary in spite of Soviet reforms.

"After more than 40 years of peace, the structures guaranteeing the rule of law and freedom are increasingly viewed as a natural thing," said Scholz.



HOMELESS: At least one million people have been left homeless in the wake of the Dec. 7 earthquake that hit Soviet Armenia. Photo shows

families awaiting relief supplies after setting up beds in the middle of the street in an Armenian town devastated by the quake.

Zia's son alleges conspiracy in father's death

NEW YORK (AP) — The son of the late Pakistani President Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq is demanding U.S. findings on the air crash that killed his father, and says he is considering a lawsuit against the plane's manufacturer for alleged failing to make the aircraft bomb resistant.

"We are appealing... through our independent lawyers because we have tried everything — the U.S. government, the Pakistani government — and we are not getting anywhere with any of them," said Ijaz Ul Haq in New York Tuesday.

The Aug. 17 crash of a U.S.-built C-130 transport near Bahawalpur, Pakistan, killed Zia, U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel and 28 others aboard.

A Pakistani report shed little light on who may have been responsible for what Pakistani investigators concluded was probably an act of sabotage against the military aircraft.

Ijaz Ul Haq and Haroon Khan, son of the late Pakistani armed forces chief General

Akhtar Abdul Rehman Khan, have hired the law firms of U.S. attorneys F. Lee Bailey, Aaron J. Broder and Mark Heller, Gen. Khan died in the crash.

Zia's 36-year-old son said a damage award was not his aim. "Money is not the purpose in this and all the money that may come out of this will be sent to the families" of all the victims, he said.

"We know it has been covered up. We know that the new government under (Prime Minister Benazir) Bhutto is not interested at getting at the facts," he said.

Zia overthrew Ms. Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in a 1977 military coup and had him hanged two years later on conviction of plotting to murder a political opponent.

Zia's son lives in Bahrain and plans to eventually return to Pakistan.

Lockheed angle

Broder said the families of the two men were considering a \$1-billion lawsuit against Lockheed

Corporation in U.S. district court in New York or Washington "predicated upon the concept of aircraft 'bomb-resistance'."

He claimed that aircraft makers such as Lockheed have a "duty to manufacture and design" an aircraft that will be as bomb-resistant as "technology will permit."

Broder said the group had not concluded that a bomb was aboard, but simply wanted to uncover the facts. "Our purpose is to get to the bottom of it and find out what happened," he said.

"We would contemplate filing the suit within a month or so," Broder said. Spokesman Jim Ragsdale of the Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Co., a division of the Lockheed Corp., said the airplane was turned out of its Marietta, Georgia, plant in 1982.

"Although Lockheed has not seen a report from the government of Pakistan on its findings related in the crash, we are not aware of any facts that would

suggest liability on the part of Lockheed," he said.

He called the crash sturdy. "The C-130 is in service with 60 different nations worldwide and during its more than 30 years of service the C-130 fleet has established a reputation for ruggedness and safety," said Ragsdale by telephone from Burbank, California.

Broder said that parts of the wreckage "have been brought from Pakistan to Washington and it is vital that reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the conclusions of the State Department from examination of the wreckage be made public."

The State Department did not immediately respond to calls for comment. The FBI spokesman could not be immediately reached.

The Pakistani report ruled out accidental technical failure aboard the Hercules transport, which crashed minutes after takeoff.

Little evidence found That report said investigators

found no evidence of either an anti-aircraft missile or a powerful bomb. But the investigators say they found residues of chemicals that could be used in an explosive strong enough to cause a technical malfunction.

Because of the crash impact, fire and absence of a cockpit flight recorder, investigators could not pinpoint an exact cause, the report said.

A long list of possible suspects include agents of Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government, angry over Zia's support of rebels fighting Kabul rulers, and Zia's sizeable domestic political opposition.

Ijaz Ul Haq at first said he thought Bhutto or her followers could not be ruled out as suspects, but when pressed on this, he said he was not pointing fingers at anyone.

He said he did not expect Bhutto would press an investigation into his father's death. "I don't expect her to be bothered about this. She says she has more serious problems to attend to," he said.

Southern African pact draws mostly positive response

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — An agreement designed to end regional strife in southwestern Africa received mostly favourable reviews Wednesday.

But Angolan rebels warned peace would elude that country unless the Luanda government agreed to negotiate with them, while South Africa's state radio said independence for neighbouring Namibia could cause problems.

The agreement signed Tuesday by South Africa, Cuba and Angola in Brazzaville, Congo, calls for the phased withdrawal of 50,000 Cuban soldiers from Angola by mid-1991, and independence for Namibia in about one year.

A final treaty was to be signed in New York Dec. 22, concluding years of U.S. mediation in the region.

The agreement, formally titled "Brazzaville Protocol" and supported by the Soviet Union, would end 73 years of South African control over Namibia, Africa's last colony. It also would halt 22 years of bush warfare by Namibian nationalists based in Angola, and would bar both Cuban and South African forces from participating in the civil war between Angola's pro-Soviet government and U.S.-backed rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

South African Foreign Minister

Pik Botha said after signing the agreement Tuesday that the peace moves also included a separate understanding between South Africa and Angola. He said the details would become known as the regional accords became effective.

Namibian political leaders praised the agreement but said they will remain sceptical until South Africans leave the country. South Africa is to begin implementing the Namibian independence April 1, leading to elections Nov. 1, 1989.

"April fool's day. I don't trust that date. But we'll accept it," said Andreas Shipanga, chairman of the cabinet in Namibia's transitional government.

Shipanga, a black Namibian, said the South Africans had not given the transitional government any advance warning about the independence date.

He said he hoped the date "would not appear and disappear like so many others. We cannot continue in a state of limbo, it is destroying the country and the morale of our people."

The Democratic Turnhalle alliance of Namibia welcomed the agreement, Chief Secretary Johan de Wael said he hoped

nothing would bar "a peaceful and meaningful independence."

The 10-party alliance of economic and political moderates appeared to be the main opponent in planned Namibian elections for the South-West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) nationalist movement. SWAPO is favoured to win the elections.

UNITA issued a statement Wednesday in Lisbon, Portugal, that hailed Tuesday's agreement as "historic" but warned that Angolans would not have peace until the government agreed to negotiate with the rebels.

Angola's government has previously rejected UNITA's calls for negotiations.

Zimbabwe President Kenneth Kaunda, the current chairman of the "frontline states," a group of black-ruled countries bordering South Africa, called the signing of the agreement Tuesday "wonderful news," the official Zambia news agency said.

The United States applauded the agreement.

In another development, South Africa proposed on Wednesday swapping an Angolan pilot who landed in Namibia Tuesday for a South African soldier captured by Angola.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha said the pilot, who landed at a Namibian farm, could be exchanged for Sergeant Johan Papefus, who was captured in Angola last May.

Sri Lanka mounts massive hunt after dramatic prison break-in

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Suspected anti-government militants used small bombs to rip open a wall of a prison and free more than 200 convicts, authorities said Wednesday. At least 30 militants were shot dead by guards, according to sources quoted by Reuters.

It was the second prison break in as many weeks at the medium-security Welikade prison, which houses about 1,500 convicts.

On Dec. 4, suspected Sinhalese extremists dressed in army uniforms overpowered guards at a prison in central Sri Lanka and freed six colleagues.

A military spokesman, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said Tuesday night's escape apparently was engineered by the People's Liberation Front, an extremist Sinhalese group trying to topple the government and disrupt the Dec. 19 presidential elections.

Heavily armed troops searched all passenger buses and vehicles entering the capital Wednesday. Police imposed an indefinite curfew in the northern neighbourhoods and then went house to house searching for the escapees.

The military spokesman said about 25 gunmen opened fire and threw small bombs at the south wall of the prison. The explosions also distracted guards in other sections of the facility, allowing other inmates to scale the walls and escape, they said.

"It was a well-organised operation," the official said. "Guards opened fire, killing at least two inmates, the spokesman said."

Security forces shot dead about 30 of the attackers, military sources quoted by Reuters said. The sources said the raiders exchanged fire with the security forces as inmates escaped in waiting vans and commandeered vehicles.

The attackers took over in a nearby post office and shops and one civilian driver was killed in the crossfire, the sources said. The army sent in an armoured car and reinforcements and sealed off the area.

A five-hour night curfew in force in the capital for over a month because of civil unrest was extended until dawn as security forces with police dogs and backed by helicopters searched the city and suburbs.

At least 15 escapees were caught early Wednesday

day about 10 kilometres (seven miles) from the prison, the military spokesman said.

The spokesman said authorities believe other convicts reached the town of Kelaniya, eight kilometres north of Colombo and escaped by boats down the Kelani River.

The front, which staged an unsuccessful coup attempt in 1971, opposes the government's efforts to end the five-year-old insurgency of Tamil rebels fighting for an independent homeland in the north and east provinces.

The Sinhalese, who are predominantly Buddhist, make up 75 per cent of the island's 16 million people and control the government and the military.

The Tamils, who account for 18 per cent of the population, claim they are denied jobs and education by the Sinhalese.

The front contends the government has offered too many concessions to the Tamils in a peace accord. It has been blamed for the murders of more than 900 people, most of them government supporters, since the accord was signed in July 1987.

In an effort to force cancellation of the Dec. 19 election, the front has staged a series of nationwide strikes that have disrupted transportation and communications and caused severe food and fuel shortages. The front says the government is incapable of conducting a fair election.

Prison sources said about 300 prisoners belonging to the front were kept in Welikade jail's maximum security section.

Police commanders and troops were called in to restore order after front members started a riot in Welikade jail last month.

The sources said that in Tuesday's escape, Sri Lanka's biggest jailbreak, prison guards had come under simultaneous attack with bombs and guns from inside and outside. Most of the prisoners escaped by blasting the walls with explosives.

"It was an inside job with the connivance of some prison officials," a senior military official said.

Police said minutes before the jail break an explosion occurred in the bazaar area of the capital three kilometres from the prison.

"This was probably a diversionary tactic," a police official said.

Nightclub bouncer new Palme murder suspect

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish police said Wednesday they had detained a 41-year-old convicted killer and were questioning him in connection with the murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme nearly three years ago.

Stockholm district court had appointed public defender Arne Liljeros to represent the man, who was not named, and state prosecutor Anders Helin was named to take charge of legal proceedings, police added.

Swedish radio said party political leaders had been briefed on the case and told the suspect had a deep hatred of Palme.

Several suspects have previously been detained over the killing only to be released later for lack of evidence.

The police gave only the barest details of the latest suspect. But newspapers and radio stations, quoting unnamed police and judicial sources, provided a welter of information.

They said the man had a long criminal record. Among other crimes, he had been convicted of

killing a drug addict with a bayonet in 1971.

This murder took place only a few metres across the street from where Palme was shot by a lone gunman as he walked home from the cinema with his wife on the night of Feb. 26, 1986.

The reports said the man was found in possession of firearms for which he did not hold a licence. He was described as unemployed but had been working as a bouncer in a nightclub near the scene of the murder at the time of Palme's killing.

Swedish radio said the man would be shown to witnesses of the Palme murder including Palme's widow Lisbet, the only person to catch more than a fleeting glance of the killer.

If he were unable to provide an alibi, the man would be formally charged with Palme's murder, the radio said.

The evening newspaper Aftonbladet said the man had been formally interviewed by police in 1986 after investigators had been tipped that he had been



Olof Palme

near the scene of the killing.

But the detectives then running the case were convinced that the murder was politically motivated and had disregarded other lines of inquiry.

Stockholm police chief Hans Holmer, who initially headed the Palme probe, was sacked in early 1987 after his theory that left-wing Kurds committed the murder collapsed. Holmer rounded up a group of Kurdish immigrants but had to let them go for lack of evidence.

At least 18 killed in Mexico prison blaze

MEXICO CITY (R) — A fire at a prison killed at least 19 inmates and seriously injured five others Tuesday after guards delayed rescue operations for fear a riot was in progress, the official Notimex news agency said.

Prisoners began screaming for help as the fire spread through a cellblock housing 116 inmates but guards did not respond immediately because they feared a riot had broken out, the agency said.

The fire erupted before dawn at the state prison of Nuevo Leon in the city of Monterrey, local Red Cross commander Yolanda Nuncio told Reuters.

She said the bodies of 19 prisoners had been pulled from the rubble. "We think there are more victims and the rubble is being searched," Nuncio said.

Local authorities said the fire was thought to have been caused by a candle left burning in the cellblock, which housed inmates convicted of crimes ranging from

robbery to drug trafficking.

Notimex quoted Nuevo Leon state attorney general Juan Francisco Rivera as saying the candle apparently fell off a stand and a curtain caught fire, quickly spreading flames to sheets and beds.

Nuncio said she had heard reports that the guards apparently could not at first find a key to let the inmates out of the burning cellblock.

She said it also appeared there were no fire extinguishers within reach of the guards, and the blaze quickly spread throughout the cellblock and to neighbouring areas of the prison.

Notimex said the prison's official capacity is 800 inmates but 2,400 were housed there.

Nuncio said the prison was only partially evacuated as a result of the fire. She said troops had to be called in to control inmates' relatives frantically trying to get news of their loved ones.

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Reagan blames media, Congress and special interests for deficits

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan, polishing the image of his administration as he begins focusing on his place in history, is again portraying himself as a crusading outsider fighting the Washington establishment.

Sounding more like the presidential candidate he was in 1980 than a wily political veteran winding up eight years in the White House, Reagan Tuesday blamed federal legislators, special interests and the news media for "one of my great disappointments" — the huge government budget deficit.

"The strength of our nation has never been with the Washington colony but with the American people," Reagan told a cheering crowd of administration job-holders. "The budget deficit is the colony's last stand."

Reagan said the 1974 budget act, which established the procedures Congress uses to make its spending decisions, had weakened the president's power to shape budget policy.

The president said the American people "know what's up and they don't like it. They may elect their congressmen but they trust Congress itself less and less. They may watch or read the media but they stop believing it, and they show more and more dislike for special interest influence."

"The only question is, when will they say once and for all that they've had enough," Reagan said in an address that recalled president Eisenhower's warning, also delivered as he neared the end of his second term in office, about the growing influence of the military-industrial complex.

Reagan, who has never recognized a connection between the deficits and his programme of tax cuts and a massive defence buildup, said the remedy was to strengthen the president's hand in budget policymaking.

He said this could be accomplished through adoption of his long-pending budget reform package, which includes a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget, a line-item veto enabling a president to block single spending items in overall appropriations bills, and more authority for a president to withhold funds from programmes he doesn't like.

Panel recommends raising salaries

Meanwhile, a presidential advisory commission Tuesday recommended a 50 per cent pay increase for members of Congress and similar boosts for federal judges and other top government officials — but only if Congress stops its members from collecting speaking fees.

The Commission on Executive, Legislative and Judicial Salaries also recommended that the president's pay, which has been fixed at \$200,000 since 1969, be raised by Congress to about \$350,000.

Commission Chairman Lloyd Cutler noted that the government's top 3,000 or so workers are paid far less than professional

athletes, and cited a list of major league baseball salaries published in Tuesday's New York Times.

"More than 500 of them receive more than a district court judge or a member of Congress or a deputy secretary of state," Cutler said.

The pay raises are designed to restore purchasing power of top government workers to its level in 1969, the first year their pay was set under the commission's advice.

The congressional increase from \$89,500 to \$135,000 is also designed to wean members of Congress from taking honoraria for speeches to special interest groups and others.

Cabinet secretaries' pay would go from the current \$99,500 to \$155,000. U.S. district court judges' pay would be the same as Congress', going from \$89,500 to \$135,000.

Japan adopts plan to deregulate economy

TOKYO (R) — Japan adopted a wide-ranging programme Tuesday to ease government control of the economy and open up its markets to imports in a new drive to reduce a huge trade surplus.

"This deregulation is indispensable for improving the life of the general public, restructuring industry, improving regional economies and opening markets," Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita told the cabinet.

Takeshita pledged to carry out the economic reforms when he met leaders of other major nations in Toronto in June.

The programme approved by the cabinet is designed to streamline the economy and make it more efficient by loosening government control and further opening markets to imports, officials said.

It covers seven areas of the economy — distribution, transportation, information and communications, finance, energy, agricultural products and new businesses.

Some of the recommendations have already been carried out, but others are more long-term with no set date for their implementation.

Under the plan, the government will seek to simplify Japan's complex retail distribution system to make it easier for importers to sell their goods here.

Foreign companies have complained that it often takes years for large Japanese retailers such as department stores and supermarkets to be allowed to operate in certain cities and towns. Those large retailers are more prone to stock imported goods than Japan's many small neighbourhood stores.

Tokyo also promised to loosen controls on interest rates paid to small savers, ease regulations covering the sale of liquor and cigarettes and help make domestic farmers more efficient.

Agriculture Minister Takashi Sato told the cabinet the domestic rice market must be liberalised slowly because of the importance of this staple food for Japan.

That is unlikely to make the United States happy. Washington has recently been pressing Tokyo to liberalise the rice market, which is totally closed to imports.

Meanwhile, officials said Japan's economy is likely to slow

to cruising speed in 1989/90 after racing ahead in the current fiscal year.

Early indications are that the government will settle on a gross national product (GNP) growth target of about four per cent for 1989/90, although officials emphasised they have just begun preliminary work on the forecast.

The government has targeted 3.8 per cent for the year ending March 31, but the economy looks sure to better that and could climb by five per cent or more, private economists said.

That rapid growth has raised fears among some analysts of an overheating economy and higher inflation.

A senior Economic Planning Agency official said domestic demand growth is expected to slow next fiscal year but not to an extent that would cause concern.

Industrialists have told officials they expect the recovery to continue into next summer or early autumn. After that, the outlook is uncertain.

The growth of both housing construction and private sector capital investment is likely to slow while public investment will be flat in 1989/90, the senior official said.

Personal consumption will continue strong, thanks to higher wages and planned tax cuts, he said.

The big question mark is the U.S. economy and whether it will suffer a recession, he added.

Depending on which private economist you talk to, Japan's economy is headed for the best of times, or the worst of times.

Both the optimists and pessimists among private sector economists see Japan's economy as the past performance of the U.S. economy.

But they disagree over what period — the glory days of the

1960's when the U.S. economy was king, or the late 1970's and early 1980's when U.S. industrial might ebbed.

"Japan is in the midst of (an) economic miracle," said D.B. Capital Markets (Asia) Ltd economist Kenneth Courts.

Just like the U.S. in the 1960's, Japan is set to become the world leader in research and development, Courts said.

The steep rise of the yen, U.S. protectionism and tough competition from the newly industrialising economies of Asia have forced Japanese industry to become even more innovative, he said.

But now Japanese businessmen are targeting the Japanese market where government deregulation and expansionary policies have unleashed demand. Courts projected GNP growth next fiscal year of 5.2 to 5.4 per cent.

The pessimists look at the same factors as Courts but forecast a "hollowing-out" of Japanese industry as manufacturers shift production abroad, just as the U.S. did in the early 1980's in response to the strong dollar.

Japan's stellar economic performance this fiscal year has forced many of the pessimists to adopt a lower profile. For 1989/90, they see growth of between three and four per cent.

The government forecast is normally released this month but it has been delayed this year due to controversy over the government's plans for tax cuts and other tax changes.

Politics as much as economics will probably determine its shape, Economic Planning Agency (EPA) officials said.

"I personally think growth will be around 4½ per cent but we'll probably decide on four per cent," one EPA official said.

Earlier, economists said a

huge leap in Japan's November trade surplus helped confirm fears the nation might not be able to trim its bloated trade imbalance much this year.

Reductions in Japan's large and politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States could also be in jeopardy, they said. That surplus had fallen for the past 10 months but has now risen.

"On a volume basis exports rose 10.5 per cent which is very, very strong," economist Matthew Berlow of Citicorp Securities Vickers said. "The increase in export volume is the highest this year. This is part of an accelerating trend," he noted.

Japan's customs-cleared trade surplus against all nations surged 38 per cent in November from the same month last year to \$6.55 billion, the largest jump in a long time.

Exports rose 19.5 per cent to \$22.63 billion as imports gained only 13.4 per cent to \$16.08 billion.

A finance ministry official told reporters after the data was announced that Japan's trade surplus might keep growing as exports were poised for further expansion.

He also said that unless crude oil prices rose, Japan's imports were not likely to show a large increase, making the overall trade surplus grow in the period ahead.

Economists had warned that Japan's exports might be once again out of control, causing its trade surplus to surge back and erase all the progress in cutting it so far this year.

Courts said with exports climbing so swiftly, imports would have had to surge 32.2 per cent just to keep the surplus at its year-earlier level.

General strike shuts down Spanish industry, transport

MADRID (AP) — A 24-hour strike Wednesday shut down Spain's major industries, public transportation and state offices, in a protest over government austerity measures.

It was Spain's first general strike in 54 years.

"We can say that the strike has been a success, as we predicted it would be, well-organised and peaceful," Nicolas Redondo, head of the country's largest union, the General Workers Union, told reporters.

However, a small explosion on the capital's Gran Via shattered windows in a clothing store before dawn, slightly injuring a passerby. In the northern city of Valladolid, a firebomb was thrown at a state employment office but caused little damage and no injuries.

Pickets gathered in major cities at the 18 stores of El Corte Ingles, the country's major department store chain, to prevent

workers and shoppers from entering, a store spokesman said.

There were reports of isolated clashes between police and striking workers, who attempted to throw up barricades across some roads and highways but no reports of arrests.

The government played down the strike, emphasising "complete normality" and assuring the public of minimum services in hospitals.

Spain's two state-controlled television channels stayed off the air, with the exception of two 20-minute newscasts.

The Socialist General Workers Union and the communist-dominated Workers Commissions Union called the strike last month after talks on wage increases, jobless benefits and increases for pensions ended without progress.

The unions said the strike also was intended to pressure the government to withdraw a youth employment plan approved Oct. 28. The unions fear it would threaten jobs of their members.

The Spanish economy has boomed since 1985. Corporate and bank profits doubled over the

last two years, one million new jobs have been created since 1985, and the government plans major 1989 budget increases in many areas.

However, unemployment at 18.7 per cent remains the highest in Western Europe. The high rate is blamed partly on more women and young people entering the labour market.

On Tuesday, the heads of both unions predicted the general strike, the first since 1934, would succeed, with five million of the 11.8 million employed Spaniards staying home to back it.

At Madrid's Barajas airport, two international flights arrived from South America without incident, but passengers later reported trouble finding transport into the city due to the lack of taxis and buses.

A minimum services pact between management at state-run Iberia and Aviaco airlines limited domestic flights Wednesday to one round-trip between the capital and most major airports around the country.

In Madrid, traffic in the capital was about half of normal, with few buses on city streets.

EC agrees to rules on spirits

BRUSSELS (R) — It's official: Ouzo can only be made in Greece and whisky, including Irish whisky, must contain a minimum of 40 per cent alcohol to deserve the label.

The new rules were agreed by European Community (EC) ministers in Brussels early Wednesday as part of a package of labelling regulations for around 175 spirits and alcoholic drinks sold in the 12-nation bloc.

The deal sets minimum alcohol content levels for drinks in order for them to keep their generic names.

An Irish plea to use the term whisky for drinks with a 37.5 per cent alcohol — a major bone of contention in the talks — was overruled after British objections.

The package also reserves specific labels for various drinks made in the country they are usually associated with.

After two years of EC talks on the subject, only ouzo made in Greece can now be called that. Italian grappa has an exclusive right to that name, while only whisky made in Scotland can be

sold as Scotch. Cognac belongs exclusively to France.

The package is part of the Community's campaign to harmonise product standards ahead of 1992, when a single European market free of internal barriers is planned.

An EC spokesman said the rules would come into force in a few weeks, coinciding with the Christmas and New Year holidays when West European alcohol consumption tends to peak.

"The decision will prevent generic names from being devalued and abused by other products which have only a very distant link to the real thing," an EC statement said.

It said the EC would use the new standards to negotiate recognition and protection of its drinks in non-EC markets.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday Dec. 14, 1988				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	471.0	473.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	381.7 383.6
Pound Sterling	858.1	862.4	Dutch guilder	238.7 239.9
Deutschemark	269.5	270.8	Swedish crown	77.6 78.0
Swiss franc	320.7	322.3	Italian lira (for 100)	36.6 36.8
French franc	78.8	79.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	128.5 129.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8190/200	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2050/60	Canadian dollar	
	1.7465/75	Deutschemark	
	1.9710/20	Dutch guilders	
	1.4690/700	Swiss francs	
	36.64/67	Belgian francs	
	5.9700/50	French francs	
	1287/1288	Italian lire	
	123.15/25	Japanese yen	
	6.0600/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.4940/90	Norwegian crowns	
	6.7500/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	419.70/420.10	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed steady, reacting little to a weaker Australian dollar and gains on offshore markets overnight. The All Ordinaries index ended unchanged from Tuesday's close of 1,457.5.

TOKYO — Share prices closed higher on bargain-hunting after two days of losses. The Nikkei index rose 156.92 to 29,754.73.

HONG KONG — A burst of late selling centred on blue chips brought the market down suddenly in the last 30 minutes of trading. The Hang Seng index fell 9.84 to 2,642.08.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed mixed after a dull and featureless session. The Straits Times industrial index fell 1.21 to 1,001.30.

BOMBAY — Heavy buying by state financial institutions helped wipe off the previous day's losses and the market closed firm. Tata Steel recovered 35 rupees to 1,072.5.

FRANKFURT — German shares tumbled from their midsession highs at the end of trading on the Frankfurt bourse, pulled down by hefty Daimler share price losses. The 30-share DAX index ended down 4.02 points at 1,286.61.

ZURICH — Prices closed slightly lower in lacklustre trading with no clear trend apparent. The index of leading shares fell 10.2 to 1,406.6 points.

PARIS — Shares dipped to the day's lows following the release of U.S. October trade data, but selling pressure was limited and volume thin. The 50-share price indicator had dropped 0.28 per cent by 1430 GMT.

LONDON — Shares staged a brief rally on the back of the slightly-better-than-expected October U.S. trade deficit but sellers soon took advantage of the rise. By 1335 GMT the FTSE index had fallen but given up its brief gain, standing 10.5 points lower at 1,742.1.

NEW YORK — Stocks were lower but steady following news of strong capacity use and industrial output. The Dow was off 1.36.

Hockey looking to widen its horizons

PALM BEACH (AP) — The National Hockey League's board of governors has established a committee to examine increased promotion abroad and released a report last week that acknowledged the sport's "perceived violent image."

In a news release issued at their semi-annual meeting at the Breakers Hotel, the governors announced they had set up a committee for international development. It will look into "expanding NHL activities" overseas.

The committee will be responsible for promoting hockey where it "is currently played or known and next in those areas where interest in hockey can be developed," the news release said.

Activities would include "event presentation, marketing promotion and retail licensing." The committee will be chaired by NHL President John Ziegler and Chicago Blackhawks owner Bill Wirtz.

The NHL's advisory committee also issued a report entitled "a vision of the '90s," that spoke optimistically of the league's continued growth over the next 10 years. But the report also conceded that "the image of the league is not consistently strong."

The report says that the NHL continues to be perceived as too violent despite "legislation and rulemaking that has in fact curtailed much of the unnecessary violence of the past."

The governors also postponed a vote on Los Angeles owner Bruce McNall's proposal that would move the Kings from the Smythe Division to the Norris Division.

McNall has been anxious to make the switch because of the difficulty in arranging North-South transportation from Los Angeles to Winnipeg and Vancouver. He would like to see his team swap divisions with the Toronto Maple Leafs, who are now in the Norris.

McNall says the switch also

would make transportation easier for Toronto since all the other teams in the Smythe Division are from Canada.

Toronto owner Harold Ballard, however, is opposed to the move and McNall is believed to be short of the required two-thirds majority to have the switch approved.

The board of governors also is expected to reject a proposal by the New York Rangers that would alter the format for qualifying for the NHL playoffs.

The Rangers are seeking to replace the current system, which allows the top four teams from each division to qualify, with one that would have the top eight teams in the overall conference make the playoffs.

The Rangers, who play in the Patrick Division, failed to reach the playoffs last year despite finishing with a better record than the Adams Division's Hartford Whalers, who did qualify.

The Quebec Nordiques, also in the Adams Division, are opposed to the change. The teams in the Norris Division also are expected to vote against it.

Girl enters male preserve
LAKE FOREST (AP) — Hockey teams seem to get aggressive when they skate against Lake Forest High School. But Shauna Winemiller doesn't mind because she can take the checks and dish them out, too.

She is Illinois' first female high school hockey player, the smallest on the ice at 5-foot-2 and 130 pounds, but one of the toughest. "A lot of teams made me a target," the 11-grade student said recently. "They play harder against me because they don't want to get beat by a girl. I've had to put up with a lot of verbal abuse."

"I've seen her get hit harder than anyone I've ever seen and she always gets back up ready to play," says team captain Chris Jasper. "The opposing fans chant her name and when she gets hit, they go crazy."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Miami end losing streak

MIAMI (AP) — Dan Marino passed for 414 yards, including a 46-yard bomb to Fred Banks in the final minute that set up the winning touchdown, as Miami ended a five-game losing streak by beating Cleveland 38-31 Monday night. Don Strock, a backup at Miami for 15 years until he was released last August, threw touchdown passes of three and two yards to Reggie Langhorne in the final 6½ minutes, the latter tying the game 31-31 with 59 seconds left. Marino, who threw for four touchdowns, moved Miami 65 yards in four plays for the winning touchdown.

Jenkins disowned by club

GATESHEAD (AP) — The name of disgraced track star David Jenkins, jailed for seven years in San Diego for drug smuggling, has been wiped from the record books of his former club, officials said Tuesday. Bill Anderson, vice-chairman of Gateshead Harriers, said that hours after the Olympic relay medalist was jailed, the club decided at its monthly meeting to disown him. "We have agreed to expunge his name and achievements from all records held by the club," Anderson said.

Theatrical goalkeeping

MADRID (R) — Real Madrid goalkeeper Francisco Buayo was suspended for three matches by the Spanish football federation Tuesday for unsporting behaviour during an unruly league game against local rivals Atletico Madrid 10 days ago. Buayo was involved in an incident with Atletico's Antonio Orejuela which led to the Atletico player being sent off.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

There are feelings of luck, optimism and romance together with a need to indulge. This tendency today will be to do things without considering the consequences. This may lead to excesses in spending, diet, etc.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Cooperation is critical to advance your career goals. Abilities and talents are in a favorable cycle.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) Go where your heart leads you. Connect with those you like. Take advantage of your sensual nature, but don't overdo it. Put off shopping.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Weekend indulgences can have you dragging your feet through the day. Meter out your energy. Rest, and organize your routine.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Career aspirations seem more difficult today. A wave of advancement moves with ups and downs. Patiently roll with it.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Think before you speak or act. Positive actions today can bring future rewards. Focus on a companion who can help you succeed.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Work quietly, and avoid any deals that took too good to be true. Others may try to persuade you. Use your good sense as protection.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An immature partner touches you deeply. Your fun-loving impulses attract others. Your current social cycle can get out of control.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Changes at work require rapid adjustments. An influential person will support your cause if you approach him or her to discuss it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Future holiday plans need a second look. Call a family member to discuss possibilities. Be gentle with your comments to others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can go overboard with unrealistic spending. Bring your expenses more in line with your real financial picture.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Your social impulses have you in the mood to celebrate. A steamy romance can pull you off course. Avoid excesses you will regret.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Giving in to temptation will have negative effects. Feelings for companionship are extreme. Don't act without seeing the total picture.

If Your Child Is Born Today

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It may be an uphill fight to the things together, accomplish tasks or get to your destination today. Scattered energy can lead to an interesting and exciting diversion.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) It is a beat-the-clock morning, but the afternoon puts you ahead of the game. Follow the leads of family members. Shop for a good buy.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your confident approach sweeps away a personality problem at work. Rearranging bed schedules will free up some personal time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Finishing up old work has you feeling good and sets the stage for an interesting evening. A challenge may be waiting for you at home.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Your frustration level may be lower than usual. Avoid teasing others over small details. Relax at home, and create a private space.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be open to affectionate companions. It is hard to communicate with so many things on your mind. Avoid ideas upon which you can't act.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) The stress level is high at work due to

a last-minute overload. Tie-ups may necessitate rescheduling recreational plans. Keep promises later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You feel great and are ready to enjoy being with good friends. Plan a reunion, however small, with relatives.

Use your style to your advantage.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Petty misunderstandings chip away at an otherwise resourceful day. You accomplish a lot in spite of others who are disorganized.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Homesick feelings are an indicator for you to contact your parents and old friends. Focus on the future. Tonight is busy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You do your best when you do what comes naturally. Set aside any restraints. If you are ready for it, love will come to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can be the center of the show. Your personality and talents shine. Romance makes a new beginning even though you are still confused.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Someone attractive wants to be alone with you. Make the first move, but use a mature approach. Playtime comes later on.

Selling Americans on soccer

LONDON (AP) — After his success in teaching American football to soccer-mad Britons, Derek Brandon is preparing himself for an even tougher assignment: selling international soccer to the Americans.

With the 1994 World Cup in mind, Brandon is planning a TV promotion in the United States similar to the National Football League series that has persuaded thousands of Britons to swap soccer shoes for shoulder pads and helmets.

"Even with the United States hosting the World Cup, selling soccer to the Americans is definitely going to be harder than selling Gridiron football to the British," said Brandon, whose company, Cheerleader Productions, was behind the successful screening of football to the Brits.

"Soccer is an exciting sport, but it has its dull moments and you have to keep people's interest."

Since 1982, Brandon's company has packaged a series of programmes incorporating recorded NFL games with explanatory on-screen notes so that British viewers could follow the game.

The programmes led to a boom in interest among British sports fans and cheerleader followed them with a similar, though less successful, series on baseball.

At the end of January, British-born Brandon leaves Cheerleader to form a new company, as yet unnamed, and plans to hit the American public with a similar series on soccer.

"Diego Maradona might be a household name in the rest of the world," Brandon said. "But, in the states, he doesn't compare with some of the big names in football, baseball, basketball and hockey."

Magic Johnson dazzles

NEW YORK (AP) — Magic Johnson scored his sixth "triple-double" of the season and the 101st of his career as he led the Los Angeles Lakers past Cleveland 111-102.

"What we were able to do was take good shots and get back on defence," Johnson said after Tuesday night's win.

Johnson scored 31 points, and had 13 assists in the game. He scored 13 points in the fourth quarter, helping the Lakers build a 14-point lead.

Bullets 115, Celtics 105

Bernard King scored 10 of his 30 points in the final 10:23 as Washington snapped a seven-game losing streak. Kevin McHale scored 22 points for the Celtics.

Hawks 106, Bulls 88

Dominique Wilkins scored 30 points, including six during a 16-6 run that gave Atlanta a 69-53 lead early in the third period. Chicago's Michael Jordan scored 28 for the Bulls, who had won six straight at home.

Pacers 115, Hornets 104

John Long scored a season-high 25 points, Vern Fleming had a career-high 13 rebounds with 10 points and 12 assists and Indiana was 16-for-16 from the foul line in the fourth quarter. Kelly Trippucka scored 26 points for visiting Charlotte.

Bucks 109, 76ers 91

Jack Sikma scored a season-high 26 points and Ricky Pierce scored 19 as Milwaukee won at Philadelphia.

Knicks 121, Nets 100

Charles Oakley scored 18 points and Sidney Green grabbed 17 rebounds in New York's fourth consecutive victory. Joe Barry Carroll scored 19 points for the Nets.

Mavericks 117, Warriors 111

Derek Harper made consecutive 3-pointers in a span of 44 seconds in the fourth quarter to

keep Dallas in front. Mark Aguirre scored 32 points for Dallas. Rookie Mitch Richmond scored 31 points for the Warriors.

Nuggets 126, Rockets 101

Fat Lever scored 14 of his 23 points in a runaway first half when Denver's defence forced 15 turnovers, and the Nuggets won their seventh consecutive home game. Akem Olayuwon and Mike Woodson scored 15 points each for Houston.

Trail Blazers 113, Clippers 92

Kevin Duckworth scored 18

points and reserve Steve Johnson 17 as Portland beat the Clippers for the 15th straight time since 1986. Benoit Benjamin scored 18 points for the Clippers.

Supersonics 126, Suns 116

Date Ellis scored 33 points and Sedale Threatt sparked a fourth-quarter surge, sending Seattle past visiting Phoenix. Tom Chambers scored 27 points for the Suns. Eddie Johnson also had 27 for Phoenix.

West German Davis Cup hopes on Becker

GOTHENBURG (R) — Boris Becker is flushed with success from his Masters triumph and overjoyed to be fit again after injury. But the twice Wimbledon champion alone cannot deny the mighty Swedes the Davis Cup.

Becker's current form has raised West German expectations for this weekend's Davis Cup tennis final but the depth and breadth of young talent in Sweden — matched by no other nation — means the home team start favourites to win their fourth trophy in five years.

World number one Mats Wilander, Stefan Edberg — who beat Becker in this year's Wimbledon final — doubles expert Anders Jarryd and Kent Carlsson make an impressive line-up for Sweden, who also have the advantage of home ground and their favourite indoor clay surface.

And yet the West Germans have the more impressive record in the 11-month run-up to the Gothenburg final. Eric Jelen and Carl-Uwe Steeh have helped

Becker to earn 5-0 wins in all their three matches.

The Swedes, appearing in the final for the sixth consecutive year, kept a clean sheet only against New Zealand in the first round.

But while all the Swedes will be expected to divide the pressure equally, Becker, 21, knows that his less experienced team-mates look to him to set an example.

West German coach Niki Pilic said the Masters win in New York last week had been a boost for Becker, who beat Wilander — but lost to Edberg — along the way.

One additional pressure for Becker may be the presence of anti-apartheid demonstrators angry at Swedish television's decision to screen the final even though the West German's name appears on a United Nations blacklist.

Becker played in racially-segregated South Africa as a 15-year-old and has refused to write a letter of apology which would get his name taken off the blacklist.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ632 ♠Q ♠95 ♠KQJ
Partner opens the bidding with three hearts. What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠J10432 ♠J97 ♠J103 ♠62
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠4 ♠VAK1043 ♠9532 ♠7653
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ108 ♠AKQJ10 ♠A4 ♠63
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.9—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.10—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.11—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.12—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.13—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.14—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.15—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.16—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.17—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.18—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.19—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.20—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.21—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.22—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.23—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.24—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.25—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.26—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.27—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.28—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.29—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Q.30—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q76 ♠Q63 ♠Q76 ♠AKQ1093
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"When I die, my life insurance will pay me \$50,000...but I have to personally endorse the check."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THERE'S A

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AORTA BUILT MALADY FILLET

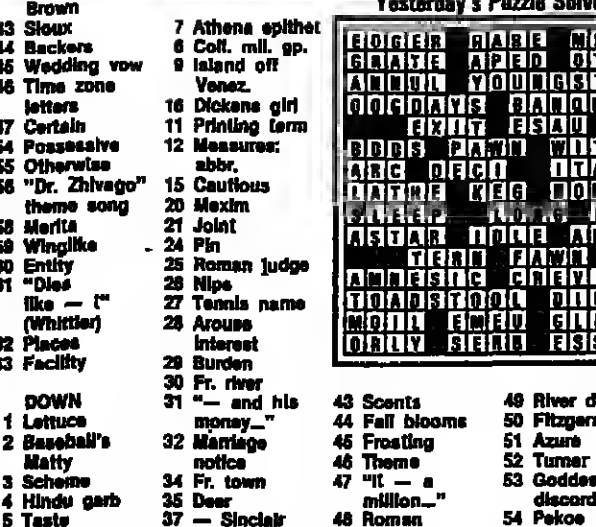
Answer: Words of praise that seldom tell flat—

FLATTERY

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy S. Martin



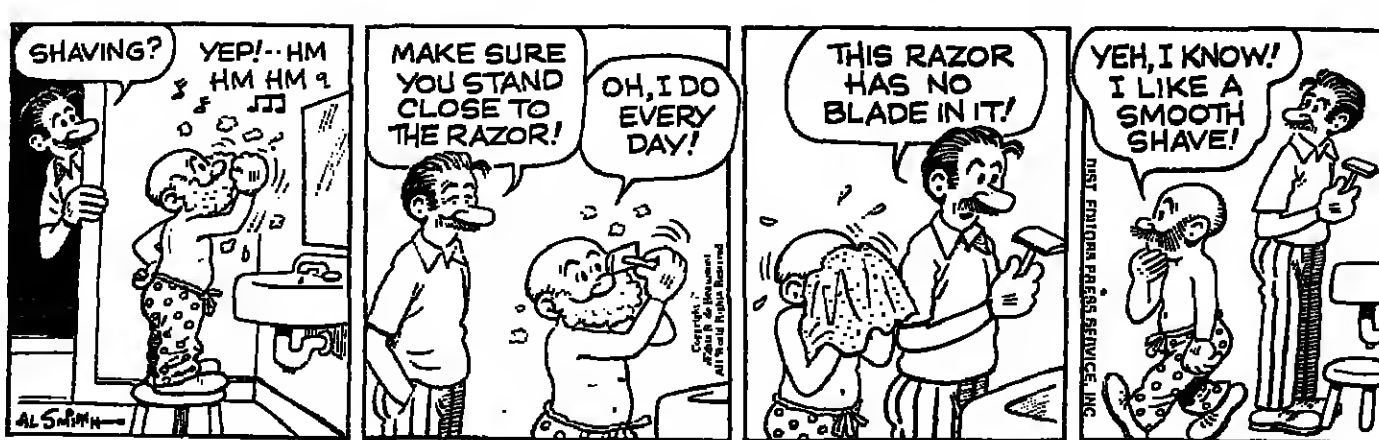
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

Ishaq Khan pledges continued support for Afghan rebels, urges stronger defence

Pakistan reaffirms Afghan policy

ISLAMABAD (AP) — President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in his first address to a joint session of parliament, Wednesday reaffirmed Pakistan's policy towards Afghanistan and called for a stronger defence.

Ishaq Khan, sworn in for a five-year presidential term on Tuesday, also laid down parliament's agenda for the next year.

"The only solution of the Afghan problem lies in the return of (three million) refugees to their homeland, which alone is possible if a broad-based government, acceptable to all sections of society, is formed," without external interference, he told members of the Senate and the National Assembly.

"The Afghan problem can be settled through political means, not through force," he said.

But, he added, without such a settlement, "we will continue to perform the humanitarian and Islamic duty of helping the Afghan brethren."

Ishaq Khan's comments appeared to dispel speculation that with the left-leaning government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Islamabad might lose

back its assistance to Afghan guerrillas, who have been fighting Kabul's pro-Soviet government since 1979.

Currently, the president is commander-in-chief of the army and has other substantial powers. Bhutto has said she wants to return to the former system under which the president had less power, but has agreed to follow the current system until she can muster a two-thirds vote in parliament supporting such a change.

Meanwhile, the government's strong support for the military can be seen in its allocating 39 per cent of its budget for defence.

Commenting on regional security, Ishaq Khan stressed that Pakistan had "no aggressive designs against anyone."

"But no one should misinterpret our desire for peace as a sign of weakness," he said, adding that Pakistan was located amid "exploitative and expansionist

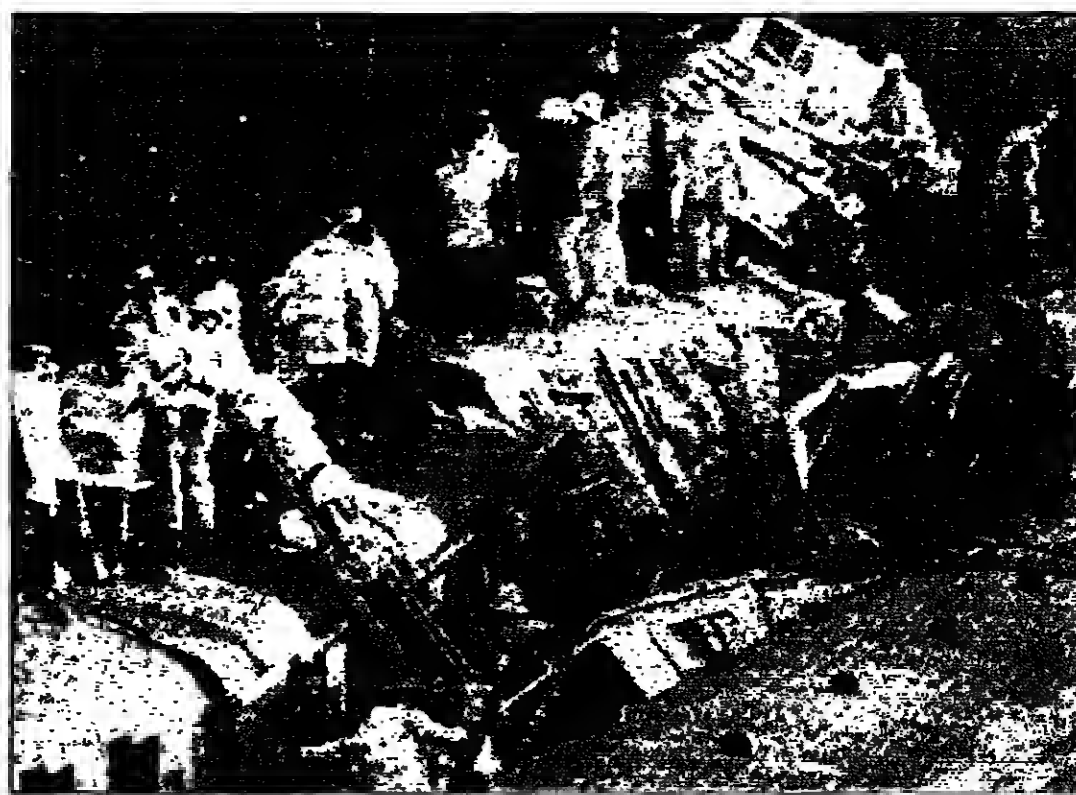
powers." In view of the situation, he said, the government will try to provide "the best possible professional training to its armed forces, and equip them with necessary and modern weapons."

Ishaq Khan was elected as a consensus candidate supported by Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and her main rival, the eight-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA).

He asked the PPP, which holds power in the federal government, and the IDA, which won a majority in Punjab, a resource-rich province with two-thirds of the country's population, to work together.

"The true spirit of democracy is that the ruling party should tolerate the opposition, which in turn should help the majority group to smoothly administer the country," Ishaq Khan said.

He also asked parliamentarians to give priority to improving law and order nationwide, strengthening the economy and continuing to lead the country in Islamic teaching, the basis for the 1947 creation of Pakistan.



Rescue workers extract injured passengers from the wreckage of the three trains involved in Monday's crash near Clapham junction, London. The line was cleared and reopened Tuesday night.

Death toll in high-speed London rail smash put at 33

LONDON (Agencies) — Police have put the final death toll at 33 in Britain's worst rail disaster for two decades and investigations centred on signals that might have failed at a critical moment.

Police said earlier 36 people had been killed in Monday's accident in which a signal fault is believed to have sent three trains hurtling into one another south of London.

They put the number of dead at 24 men and nine women after pathologists had finished piecing mutilated corpses together.

"Obviously it's a very difficult problem for pathologists but the figure they have now arrived at is 33. This is the final death toll," a police spokesman said late Tuesday.

More than 110 people were injured, including 40 seriously.

One driver involved in the fatal triple-train crash left his engine moments before the collision to call signal operators from the side of the tracks, British Rail said Tuesday.

The state-run railroad has said the crash probably was caused by a signals-related fault during modernisation of 40-year-old

equipment.

Neither British Rail nor driver Alex McClymont would comment on news stories that he was reporting the signal lights were flickering between red, green and yellow and confusing drivers.

M.L. Engineering of Plymouth, the company responsible for designing and supplying the new signaling equipment, said "the difficulty appears to be in the wiring to that equipment," which was British Rail's responsibility.

Gordon Pettitt, general manager of British Rail's southern region, said McClymont acted properly in stopping his train to call signal operators because his train was not equipped with its own two-way radio.

"Therefore, the driver, quite correctly being concerned at what he had seen, we believe, got down and talked to the signalman at the earliest possible stage," Pettitt said. "He acted absolutely correctly."

Asked in an Independent Television interview whether the accident could have been averted if the driver had a radio, Pettitt said: "I think it's likely that it

may have avoided it and it certainly may have avoided such serious results."

As workers removed the last chunks of mangled metal and retrieved personal belongings of the estimated 1,500 people on the trains, the Duchess of York and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher separately visited the injured in hospital and Pope John Paul II sent his condolences.

The stretch of track that had been closed since the disaster reopened Tuesday night.

McClymont's train was idling outside the Clapham junction rail station, one of Europe's busiest, when a fast-moving passenger train slammed into it during Monday morning's rush hour, entombing some passengers in the twisted metal and hurling out others like rag dolls.

An empty freight train travelling in the opposite direction on the adjoining track struck the spillover wreckage as well as some passengers trying to scramble to safety. A fourth train, crowded with commuters, stopped a few metres short of the wreck, British Rail said.

COLUMNS 768

Burglar caught with his pants down

BANGKOK (R) — Police have detained a burglar notorious for breaking into homes clad only in his underpants and consuming the contents of refrigerators before fleeing with his loot. Suwit Sae Heng was caught at a downtown Bangkok house early Wednesday morning wearing only his underwear. An accomplice in a similar state of undress got away. Three watches and a large quantity of cash were found in Suwit's underpants.

Starving boa devours brother

NICOSIA (R) — A starving boa constrictor has devoured its smaller companion at Tehran zoo, where animals are dying daily for lack of food, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. The snake, which weighs 70 kilograms and is four metres long, swallowed its brother boa Sunday, it said. "They had a happy life together for years. But there was not much else to eat," the agency reported plaintively. It said the daily newspaper Kayhan criticised bow animals at the 31-year-old zoo had been virtually left to die because there was not enough money to feed them properly. It quoted one employee as saying 40 per cent of the animals had died because of problems arising from the closure of the zoo twice in two years. The worker said between one and three animals were dying daily for lack of food.

TV viewers acquit Louis XVI

PARIS (R) — Guillotined French monarch Louis XVI has been acquitted by the French public in a mock trial held to mark the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution. Voting by telephone and computer, 55 per cent of those who watched the French television drama said Louis, beheaded in the Place de la Concorde, should be cleared of treason charges. Some 27.5 per cent said the king should be beheaded, and 17.5 per cent said he should be sent into exile. Louis was executed Jan. 21, 1793, four years after the storming of the Bastille. France's two leading lawyers acted for and against Louis in the mock trial, with actors playing other key roles.

Nepali prince abandons royal status

KATHMANDU (R) — King Birendra of Nepal has given his youngest brother permission to shed his royal titles and duties, the palace said Tuesday. It said in a statement prince Dhirendra had sought the monarch's permission to abandon the title "his royal highness" and to shed his privileges as a member of the royal family. No reason was given for 36-year-old Dhirendra's decision to seek commoner status.

Miscarriages plague USA Today

ARLINGTON (AP) — Environmental tests of USA Today headquarters show no hazardous substances in the air of newsrooms where employees say 14 women workers have suffered miscarriages, the newspaper's editor says. Peter S. Pritchard said that the preliminary results were provided by an outside testing firm that tested newsrooms at USA Today's Arlington headquarters in the last two weeks and that more tests will be done. USA Today employees said last week an informal survey found that 14 women who work on the 14th and 15th floors of the building had suffered miscarriages since September 1987. The employees were concerned that major construction which began in the offices in April contributed to several of the miscarriages. "We're continuing to look at it," Pritchard told the Washington Post. "We don't know the cause (of the miscarriages) and we're continuing to try to find out."

Mandela in 'total isolation'

CAPE TOWN (AP) — Jailed black leader Nelson Mandela is in "total isolation" at his new prison farm house, his attorney said Tuesday after the African National Congress (ANC) leader met with his wife Winnie.

Mrs. Mandela, her daughter Zinzi and three grandchildren made their first visit to the Victor Verster prison outside Cape Town, where Mandela was moved to a prison staff house last week.

The family is allowed unlimited access to Mandela, but Mrs. Mandela visited for only 80 minutes, saying the couple would not accept special privileges from the government until all political prisoners receive the same treatment.

Family attorney Ismail Ayob, speaking on behalf of Mrs. Mandela, told a news conference afterwards:

"This is not freedom. The move is in fact a retrogressive step. Mr. Mandela now has no contact at all with any of his (jailed ANC) colleagues."

Mrs. Mandela attended the news conference with Ayob, but declined to speak.

The Mandela family "felt saddened and particu-

larly hurt today when they saw what has happened to Mr. Mandela," Ayob said. "He is in a house ... surrounded by a great many prison officials. It is a cruel situation that he is in total isolation."

Ayob accompanied Mrs. Mandela to the prison gate, but was not allowed to see Mandela because authorities had not responded to his request for a visit.

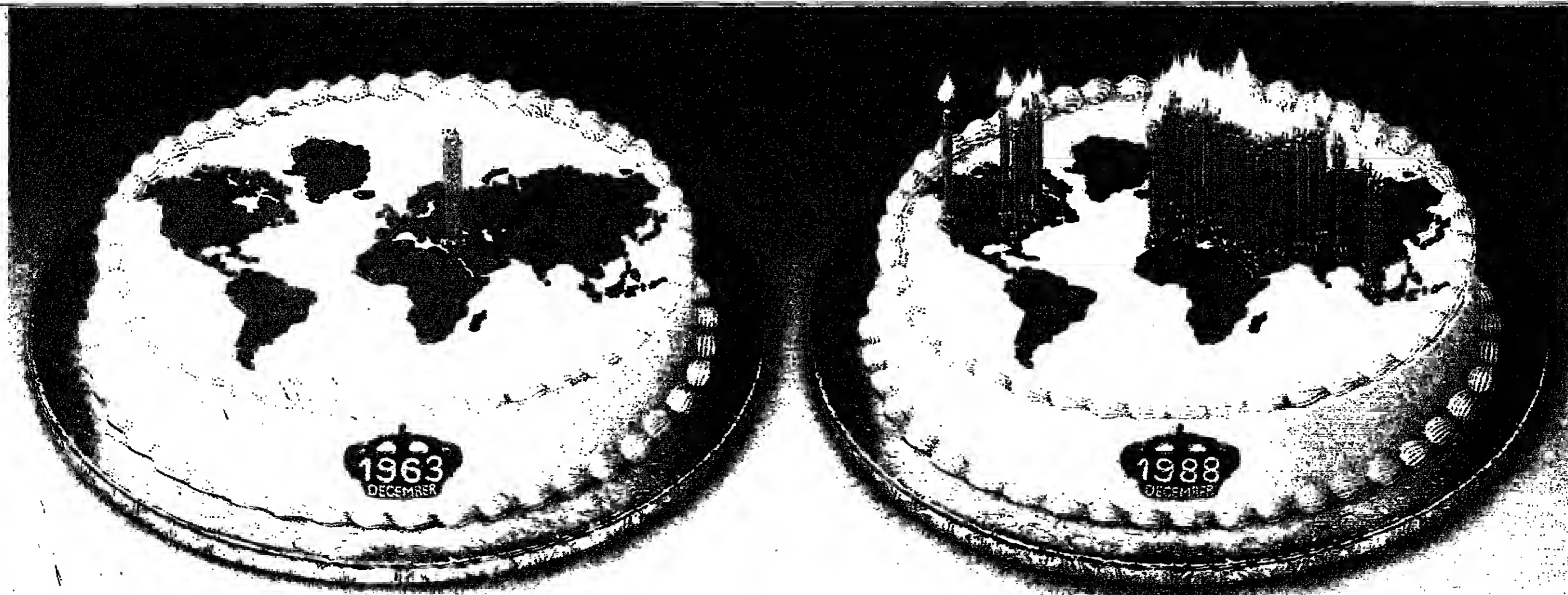
Mandela's house, complete with a swimming pool, in on a remote part of the prison complex, closer to a private game reserve full of zebra and giraffe than the main prison building.

Some whites have written letters to South African newspapers expressing outrage that a prisoner is being kept in such "luxurious" conditions.

However, Ayob noted that Mandela had no say over his move.

"I don't even think he can swim," said Ayob.

Mandela, the country's best known black leader, has been imprisoned since 1962 and is serving a life sentence for sabotage and plotting to overthrow the white-led government.



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